

The Fellows Program

The Fellows Program is a nine-month program that provides a forum in which young people become firmly rooted in their relationship with Christ and are trained to integrate their spiritual lives with their professional careers. Participants are given training in the Bible and practical discipleship, and are given the opportunity to apply what they learn in a job setting in the Houston, Texas metropolitan area.

The Fellows Program has been developed by St. John the Divine, a large, evangelical, Episcopal Church flourishing in Houston, Texas. As a large resource-size church, St. John the Divine has recognized and accepted its responsibility for the establishment and support of mission programs and to help develop Christian leaders who are properly equipped to be disciples in today's world.

YOUTH MINISTRY

Another feature of the program gives Fellows the opportunity to work with St. John the Divine's outstanding student ministry. Involvement consists of weekly planning meetings, Sunday night Youth Group, discipling junior and high school students as well as participating as a facilitator in Sex, God, & Me, the nationally known Christian based sexual abstinence course for teens founded by Meg Rice.

Mentor Relationship

While in the Fellows Program, each Fellow is matched with a mature Christian mentor with whom he or she has regular personal contact. The mentors help support and guide the Fellows as they progress through the program.

Financial Aspects

To encourage growth in their Christ-centered life and minimize expenses, each Fellow can be housed with a family or in a garage apartment. Room and board is supplemented and given to the Fellows as a gift of stewardship by Parish families. Basic living expenses are covered by the part-time wages the Fellows earn in their job setting. Fellows are responsible for their own car and health insurance. Before entering the program each Fellow is required to raise \$1700 to help meet the costs related to courses, retreats, study materials, and other items integral to the program.

The St. John the Divine Fellows Program is composed of these many facets, all designed to prepare the Fellows to be leaders in the Christian world, regardless of their vocational direction.

A typical week would include the following:

Monday: Advanced Education

Devoted to building a sound theological foundation, an exciting component of the program is the set of courses taught by The Reverend Doug Richnow, Sr. Associate Rector of St. John the Divine. A three-hour course on Christianity in a Postmodern culture is taught each Fall, including discussion on "Contemporary World Views," "Christian Apologetics," and "Basic Theology." During the Spring each Fellow gives an engaging presentation of a Christian book of his or her choosing, in which the other Fellows are required to read and participate in group activities.

Monday evenings are spent together in "roundtable" discussions with Meg Rice, the director of our Fellows Program. This is a time prayer and sharing personal histories, point of view, and lessons learned in living out the principles of bringing Christ into the center of one's daily life.

Tuesday-Thursday: Work Place

The Fellows are placed in part-time positions reflecting their particular field of vocational interest: business, law, communications, education, medicine, government, youth ministry, theater arts, music, etc.

The goals of the workplace are to:

- (1): allow the Fellow to evaluate interests and gifts in a specific field;
- (2): provide the Fellow with a specific job position with relevant responsibilities and accountability;
- (3): provide opportunities to apply biblical principles on the job;
- (4): provide opportunities for the Fellow to develop professional and kingdom relationships for the future.

Work placement sites will be cultivated by the Fellows Committee of St. John the Divine and will, in as near as possible, be related to the Fellow's field of vocational interest.

Those Fellows who have an interest in theater arts, music, or youth ministry will be given an opportunity for job placement in those ministry departments at St. John the Divine.

Friday: Informal Bible Study

Fridays are busy days for the Fellows. From 9-10:30 am, they meet with our Rector, the Rev. Larry Hall. Then, for the next two hours, they do a Bible study led by Meg Rice. Lunch with a clergy member follows, and then two hours of life application of Christian values with the Rev. Doug Richnow.

Sunday: Worship and Fellowship

On Sundays the Fellows will be given the opportunity to experience hands-on work with the Contemporary Worship Service. This may include acting, directing, contemporary music leadership and application, stage lighting, and sound management. Those who prefer a more traditional worship style can participate in other services offered at St. John the Divine.



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THE CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE DIVINE

FELLOWS PROGRAM

The St. John the Divine Fellows Program is a postgraduate Christian leadership training program for recent college graduates who seek to be active builders of Christ's

