

ABCUSA MATTHEW 25 GRANT APPLICATION

A generous donor has given a sum of money through American Baptist Churches USA to be used for programs that address "housing, feeding, education and health with regard to the less fortunate." A panel will select recipients for grants of up to \$5,000 largely based on the degree to which the funds will be used to directly assist persons in poverty. Ministries must be in relationship with American Baptist Churches USA to be eligible to apply, and only one application per church or ministry will be considered per year. Grant funds may not be used to fund staff positions.

1. General Information:

Organization Name Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology, Virginia Union University
Affiliation with ABCUSA school of theology founded by and affiliated with the ABC-USA
Address 1500 N. Lombardy Street, Richmond, VA 23220
Phone 708.955.8913 (cell) 804.257.5715 (main office) Federal Tax ID# 540524516
Contact person Dr. Denise Janssen email DLJanssen@vu.edu

2. Please submit with your application a copy of:

- Your mission statement
- A financial statement FOR THIS MINISTRY. This can be a budget or projected budget, and should not exceed 2 pages. Church budgets are not acceptable.


3. How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

4. Total cost of the project depending on the year, between \$100,000 and \$250,000 total

5. Amount being requested from the ABCUSA Matthew 25 Grant \$5,000

6. Your other funding source(s) for this project - special fundraising efforts, restricted donations

I certify that all the information submitted with this application is true and correct, and that we will use any granted funds as described. We will supply a 1-page report on the use of the funds and a photo within six months of receipt of the grant.

(Signed)  Date 3/11/2014

Printed Name/Title Dr. Denise Janssen, Assistant Professor of Christian Education

Please note:

- Incomplete applications will not be considered.
- Recipients agree to share their stories via the ABCUSA website.
- Application deadline is March 1 for grants distributed on April 15; Sept. 1 for grants distributed on Oct. 15
- Completed applications should be sent via email to beth.fogg@abc-usa.org. Only electronic submissions will be accepted.



Use of Funds and Grant Budget

How do you plan to use the requested funds? How will the funds specifically assist individuals battling poverty and its effects? (Please submit on separate sheet. Maximum of one page.)

The \$5,000 in funds requested will go to assist students with emergency living expenses that fall outside the parameters of federal and institutional financial aid. It might seem that graduate students would not be considered impoverished, but this is not the case. While it is true that many of our roughly 400 students are employed full-time and living comfortably, there are a significant number of our students – over 30% - who come to seminary with substantial educational and personal debt, in some cases totaling between \$20,000 and \$40,000. Often students rely on federal financial aid, primarily loans, to pay for their education, books, fees, living expenses, etc. Limited institutional resources are available to assist with education-related expenses. The Dean raises funds to supplement a few small endowed scholarships in order to provide students in need with additional financial aid, assistance with books, and help with other educational expenses. Sometimes students have non-educational needs that impact their studies. Small grants from a Student Emergency Fund would provide assistance in dire situations where a small amount of money makes a big difference.

The funds requested, \$5,000 in total, would supplement the funds already available to students through federal financial aid and through the limited institutional resources, providing a small Student Emergency Fund with grants for living expenses and other assistance for students in serious financial need. These funds would be awarded to students by the Dean in consultation with the Graduate Student Services coordinator and other faculty and staff.

Please allow me to share a few anonymous student stories to help illustrate this need.

- Inclement weather keeps a student from working her part-time job. She is paid nothing when storms close her workplace, and this has happened repeatedly over a three-month period. She falls behind on car payments but negotiates with her lender for grace in repossession if she is able to catch up with two monthly payments. With assistance from her parents she is able to make one payment, but her car is repossessed since she cannot make the second late payment. Without a car, getting to class or work becomes nearly impossible. Help from the Student Emergency Fund would keep her in class and buy her some additional time as she works to get caught up.
- An emergency medical bill for their child causes a short-term financial emergency for a husband and wife who are both students. Food, gas, and medicine are suddenly all competing for the same limited income. The students' families help, but their resources are limited, too. A small grant from the Student Emergency Fund would keep this family from making unthinkable choices between food, gas, and needed medications.
- A student has come to study at the School of Theology from Africa. He does not have a winter coat, hat, and gloves. He also has no blankets for his bed. He did not realize it would get so cold here. His resources for living are limited and he is not permitted to work as an international student. The Student Emergency Fund would provide assistance to allow him to purchase the things he needs to stay warm – perhaps even from a resale shop where his dollars would stretch farther.

The Student Emergency Fund would provide assistance for graduate students at the School of Theology for non-educational emergency needs. No more than \$500 would be disbursed to any one student, and no student could request assistance more than once. Need would be verified, where possible. Students who receive assistance would be encouraged to “pay it forward” by helping someone else once their emergency passes or by making a gift to the Student Emergency Fund to help another student in need.

Budget

Each year is different, with differing levels of funding raised by the Dean to assist students. Dean John Kinney raises between \$100,000 and \$250,000 annually for scholarships and other educational aid to students. The Student Emergency Fund created with the requested \$5,000 grant would assist students with emergency non-educational needs.

Scholarships/other educational assistance	\$100,000 (up to \$250,000 in some years)
Matthew 25 Grant/Student Emergency Fund	\$ 5,000
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Total	\$105,000 (up to \$255,000 in some years)

Mission Statement

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology is the only graduate school of Virginia Union University. As such, the University's mission statement also applies to our School, while the School of Theology also has its own mission statement.

The vision and mission of VUU are: Virginia Union University is a premier historically black institution of higher education, transforming the world one student at a time. Virginia Union University, nourished by the African American heritage and energized by a commitment to excellence, provides a nurturing, intellectually challenging and spiritually enriching environment. Virginia Union University develops scholars, leaders, and lifelong learners who attain their maximum potential to become contributing members of a global society

Seeking to empower students, the University provides dynamic academic and support programs that help students develop strong moral values to build a foundation for success. The University offers a broad range of educational opportunities while advancing its focus on teaching, research, science, and technology, as well as adult continuing education, civic engagement, and distance education.¹

The mission/purpose statement for the School of Theology is as indicated:

The Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology of Virginia Union University (STVU) is a historically African American graduate school that, in partnership with the church and community, endeavors to equip students for service within diverse social contexts through a curriculum that emphasizes academic excellence, spiritual (trans) formation, and faithful service in the church and world.

In fulfillment of its mission, STVU seeks:

1. To act as a catalyst for the critical and conscientious faith development of students.
2. To assist students in defining and developing the specifics of their service in ministry.
3. To provide a compassionate and nurturing context for substantive theological study.
4. To serve as a facilitator of the church in defining and identifying worship in its broader aspects and in understanding its mission as it affects everyday life.²

¹ This information is contained in the VUU and STVU academic catalog.

² This information is taken from page six of the catalog for the Samuel DeWitt Proctor School of Theology. The catalog can be accessed online at <http://www.vuu.edu/theology/home.htm>