

Through imaginative courses and diverse programs of community engagement, students at Wake Forest University Divinity School are equipped to be agents of justice, reconciliation, and compassion in Christian churches and other faith ministries.

An example of one such program is **Bridging Faith Communities.**

The Darryl Hunt Project for Freedom and Justice, Inc. offers community resources to strengthen and expand services for re-entry of ex-offenders into the community.

Emmanuel Baptist Church offers a variety of summer educational and cultural enrichment programs for youth.

More than Conquerors, Inc. offers mentoring and tutoring programs designed to shape and improve a healthy self-image.

Grace Presbyterian Church (USA) addresses the needs of women in ministry and promotes the advancement of African-American women clergy.

These grantees are examples of communities crossing bridges by welcoming WFU Divinity School students as interns. Our students learn as they contribute their skills and talents to area congregations and non-profit agencies

This program is made possible by a grant from the



www.dupontfund.org



Bridging Faith Communities
The Divinity School
of Wake Forest University
1834 Wake Forest Road
Post Office Box 7719
Winston-Salem, NC 27109

336.758.5121

www.wfu.edu/divinity/bridgingfaith



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of Wake Forest University
Winston-Salem, North Carolina

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Supported by
The Jessie Ball duPont Fund

History

An informal committee of several clergy from local African-American churches approached WFU Divinity School to discuss new ways for Divinity students to serve as a resource to their congregations.

Over seven years these pastors advised the Divinity School on leadership and program needs in African-American congregations and not-for-profits that serve African-American communities. These clergy also wanted to overcome obstacles to sustaining ministry programs initiated by interns who served in these congregations and not-for-profits.

Bridging Faith Communities evolved from these discussions.

The Divinity School is uniquely positioned to respond to the committee's request to undertake this program because many of our students are African-American. They understand the needs of congregations, can help improve and enhance racial dialogue, and empower congregations to build networks and resources to address specific needs.

To accomplish these goals, Bridging Faith Communities channels funds to programs, initiated by congregations and local not-for-profits, that collaborate with Divinity School interns to address their primary goals.

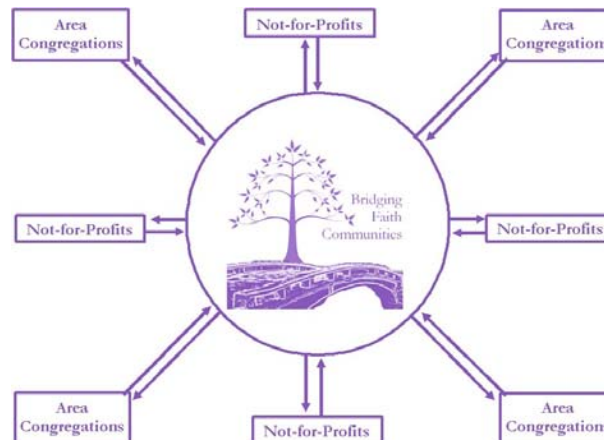
Guidelines for a Mini-Grant

Through the Bridging Faith Communities program, mini-grants are available to African-American congregations and not-for-profit agencies that have a ministerial student intern.

To be eligible for a mini-grant, an intern from the Divinity School and a congregation or not-for-profit must collaborate on a 12 to 24-month internship proposal.

Goals of the grants are to:

- Provide assets of leadership and programming to under-resourced African-American ministries in Forsyth County and surrounding communities.
- Provide networking resources for our African-American Divinity Alumni.
- Provide African-American mentors and internship contexts for the Divinity School's students.



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for a grant send your request for an application package to:

Bridging Faith Communities
WFU Divinity School
PO Box 7719
Winston-Salem, NC 27109
or call 336.758.5121

or visit Bridging Faith Communities on the web

www.wfu.edu/divinity/bridgingfaith

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Lessons Learned

Clergy and individuals in local African-American congregations, as well as current students, alumni, and Divinity School Board of Visitors' members identify this type of grant as a catalyst to nurture much needed networking in the area of African-American churches. At present, a higher graduating population of African Americans broadens the channels of communication and increases the exchange of information. Such activities touch the community in ways that can be felt for years to come