



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT

Debbie Wibowo
Marketing & Communications Associate
debbie.wibowo@ucfunds.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UCF Awards Over \$180K to Seminarians through Helen and Richard Brown Endowment

New York, May 11, 2023 – United Church Funds (UCF), a financial ministry of the United Church of Christ (UCC), is pleased to announce the awarding of \$182,000 in scholarships to 24 Members in Discernment (MID), who are persons preparing for ordained ministry in the UCC.

This year's Brown scholars come from 17 UCC conferences and attend 12 seminaries, divinity schools, or regional theological education programs. The awarded scholarships, ranging from \$4,000 to \$12,000, will assist MIDs in their seminary or theological education.

Rev. Gwendolyn V. Kirkland, Administrator of the Endowment, said: "The scholarships will enable these talented individuals to pursue their dreams of becoming ministers and leaders within our faith community. They'll join hundreds of others who have received Brown Scholarships over the last two decades and now serve as UCC ministers."

Rev. Kirkland added: "By investing in their theological education, we are investing in the future of our church, fostering a strong and vibrant community of leaders who will guide and inspire congregations across the UCC."

Brown scholarships are funded by the Helen and Richard Brown Endowment, established from a generous gift received in the 1990s. The Endowment supports training and continuing education for pastoral ministry in the UCC and its global partner churches. United Church Funds serves as a trustee of the Brown Endowment, which today provides over \$300,000 annually for individual scholarships for seminarians, grants for continuing education for authorized ministers and support for seminarians in UCC global partner churches.

Charles Buck, UCF President & CEO, said: "Helen and Richard Brown's generosity will have a lasting impact on the lives of these deserving scholars and the communities they serve."

.../2

-2-

"UCF is dedicated to the responsible stewardship of funds entrusted to its care. By managing and distributing endowments like the Helen and Richard Brown Endowment, the organization strives to support the mission and ministries of the UCC and its commitment to fostering spiritual growth, social justice and inclusive community," added Buck.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the Brown Scholars Class of 2023, and [click here](#) for more information about the Helen and Richard Brown Endowment.

About United Church Funds

United Church Funds (UCF) is the leading provider of socially responsible, values-aligned investment management services to United Church of Christ churches and ministries, as well as all faith-based organizations. We offer customized investment portfolios and prudent investment strategies that provide competitive returns while also reflecting our clients' values in seeking to achieve a just world. UCF also offers endowment governance consulting, planned giving programs and superior, personalized service from our dedicated Client Services team. To learn more about how UCF can help your church or faith-based organization further its mission while achieving its long-term financial goals, please visit www.ucfunds.org, email us at info@ucfunds.org or call us toll-free at 877-806-4989.

-ends-