

Guidelines for ELCA Wittenberg Center e.V.-Administered EKD Stipends

In order to provide an opportunity for ecumenical encounter and support advanced learning and research, the church office of the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) annually offers up to two stipends for Evangelical Lutheran Church in America clergy, interns, rostered professionals, or laity. The stipend recipients are designated by the ELCA Wittenberg Center e.V. The stipends are granted for programs of study and research within Germany for a three-month period. In order to administer this stipend program, the ELCA Wittenberg Center, e.V. has developed the following guidelines:

1. Applicants for the EKD Stipend must complete an ELCA Wittenberg Center e.V. Application for Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) Stipend.
2. Applicants must be active members of an ELCA congregation or engaged in full-time academic work at an ELCA-related college or university. An applicant must receive endorsement from the Bishop of the synod in which his or her membership lies. If the applicant is not a member of an ELCA congregation, the applicant must receive the endorsement of the President of the ELCA related college or university for which he or she works. All applicants must submit a recommendation from the pastor of the congregation to which they belong.
3. The monthly stipend established by the EKD is 959.00 Euro.
4. The stipend includes reimbursement for travel to and from Germany for the scholar. Provision is also made to insure that the scholar will have adequate health insurance.
5. Stipends may be used for the purchase of academic materials, program registration fees, living expenses in Germany, travel costs and other related expenses as approved by the Wittenberg Center directors.
6. Applicants will be responsible for making arrangements for travel, accommodations, and any necessary institutional permissions and privileges in connection with the study program. The Center is able to assist with arrangements in Wittenberg and some nearby cities.
7. Applicants are responsible for their own passports and visas.
8. Applicants will present a study program proposal which indicates the program's objectives. Applications will be judged on the following criteria:
 - how the program will benefit the applicant's current ministry
 - how the program will benefit the applicant's current institution
 - how the program will benefit the church (congregationally, synodically/regionally, and nationally)
 - how the program will further relationships with the Church in Germany – its members, congregations and leaders.
9. Applicants will present an outline of the study program, including:
 - Places in Germany where applicant intends to study
 - Contacts in Germany that already exist and those intended to be made
 - Areas in which assistance will be required.
10. Stipend recipients must conform to the guidelines as set forth by the EKD (Evangelical Church of Germany).
11. Stipend recipients will be asked to sign a covenant with the ELCA Wittenberg Center which indicates their intent:
 - to complete the program as proposed

- to submit a brief program summary at the end of their stipend period
 - to prepare a letter of acknowledgement to the appropriate EKD personnel
 - to practice cultural sensitivity and serve in harmony with the Global Mission of the ELCA's accompaniment model (materials available on request).
12. Stipend recipients are required to substantially complete their program as proposed. They may, due to circumstances beyond their control, prepare a program proposal revision in consultation with the directors of the ELCA Wittenberg Center and the appropriate personnel at the EKD. Recipients may, upon failure to complete the program as proposed in the application, be required to reimburse the entire stipend, or a portion thereof, and/or their airfare allowance to the EKD.
 13. Considerations will be given so that total stipends awarded over a three-year period will be divided equally with regard to gender.
 14. In connection with the Reformation Decade (2008 – 2017), the ELCA Wittenberg Center intends, in some years, to award one of the two EKD Stipends in conjunction with study in the various historical archives in Wittenberg.