

Theology of Work Grant Program 2012

Sponsored by:

Mustard Seed Foundation
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Arlington, VA 22201 USA

www.msfdn.org

Administered by:

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Part 1: Theology of Work Grant Program

Description of the TOW Grant Program

The Theology of Work (TOW) Grant Program was established in 2006 by the Mustard Seed Foundation and is administered by the Bakke Graduate University (BGU). Grants are available to seminaries, colleges and bible schools, both nationally and internationally, to create and offer accredited (formal) theology of work educational programs for future pastors that will enable them to effectively steward the callings and vocations of their congregants who are working in the marketplace and other non-church centered environments. Grants are also available for organizations, and training networks, that create and offer continuing education (non-formal) programs for both pastors and marketplace leaders.

Purpose of the TOW Grant Program:

The primary purpose of the TOW Grant Program is to encourage seminaries to teach pastors, future pastors, and teachers of pastors biblically based theology of work and its' implications as they guide and resource their church congregants for ministry in the workplace. A biblical theology of work includes at least two critical God-given mandates for mankind:

- **Creation Mandate** of Genesis 1-2 to subdue or rule the earth with God
- **Redemption Mandate** of Matthew 28 to reconcile people and the earth to God

Current pastor education is usually focused on teaching and modeling the Redemption Mandate, which includes such things as the theology of God, an understanding of the role of the church, a working knowledge of the scriptures, and insights into a pastor's own spiritual formation. Woven into this program pastors are taught skills such as preaching, counseling, organizational and leadership development to help them build up the church they are called to serve. Fundamentally, future pastors are taught to know their own gifts and callings, and then they are taught the skills to be a good steward of their calling. We do not in any way want to minimize the importance of this Redemptive Mandate or the fact that pastors should know their calling.

However, the Creation Mandate, which teaches that we work for God's glory through our various callings both outside as well as inside normal church ministry programs, is not often discussed, taught or understood by our pastors and congregations. We believe that there is a great need for pastors to learn how to steward the callings of their congregants who are in the workplace by providing increased ministry guidance for them during the other six days. Often congregants are led to believe that the work done outside the church is something they have to do for financial income and has little significance in God's purpose and plan for them on earth. As a result, they often have little joy in their work, give less than their best effort to their work, and sometimes even separate themselves from God while in the workplace.

The study of theology of work is not new, but it is infrequently taught in our seminaries and other pastoral training places. As a result, pastors rarely teach or discuss theology of work principles within the church.

This grant was created to help institutions that are preparing pastors and church leaders to understand the purpose and importance of the Creation Mandate, and to help them prepare and resource new and practicing pastors with biblical, theological and practical tools for the workplace that can be taught by them to the people they pastor.

Who We Are

The Theology of Work Grant Program was established and funded in 2006 by the Mustard Seed Foundation and is administered by the Bakke Graduate University (BGU). BGU is a non-denominational school which serves and is served by a large international network of urban leaders. Our mission is to strengthen ministry leaders who steward resources with and for vulnerable people and places, by means of contextual, Christian-based education innovatively delivered throughout the urban world. We believe in the affirmations declared in the Lausanne Covenant: “We believe the Gospel is God’s good news for the whole world, and we are determined by His grace to obey Christ’s commission to proclaim it to every person and to make disciples of every nation. We desire, therefore, to affirm our faith and our resolve and to make public our covenant.” Because we are a part of the ‘whole church’, we partner with various ministries, churches, leadership networks, and other seminaries and colleges that share our common vision and values as stated in the Lausanne Covenant. Our doctoral and masters students receive their education by using cities as their classroom in various major cities throughout the world, such as New York, Hong Kong and Manila. Visit our Web Site at: **www.bgu.edu**

The Mustard Seed Foundation (MSF) is a Christian family foundation established in 1983 under the leadership of Dennis W. Bakke and Eileen Harvey Bakke. As the name implies, MSF provides seed funding for small start-up projects in churches and Christian organizations around the world. MSF seeks to help launch projects as a minority partner, providing funds over a limited time period, and in a way that encourages self-sufficiency and reliance on the local church and Christian community. The gospel of Jesus Christ and the advancement of His kingdom are central to all that we are and all that we do. For this reason, all grant and scholarship recipients of MSF must proclaim their faith in Christ, affirm the basic tenets of orthodox Christianity, and desire to serve and witness in Christ’s name. The Mustard Seed Foundation Web Site is: **www.msfdn.org**

Available Resources for the Theology of Work (TOW) Grant Program

There are many wonderful writers and resources available that can be used to develop curriculum for courses in the theology of work. Additional grant information, which includes a bibliography of theology of work literature, web site information, syllabi of previously taught courses, and basic class guidelines has been developed. These resources can be obtained by emailing: Dr Lowell Bakke (lowellb@bgu.edu).

Funding Guidelines for the TOW Grant Program

Grants will be awarded to schools and seminaries (formal education for degrees or diploma programs) at the normal tuition rate charged students by the institution receiving the grant. These grant funds may be used by the school for giving scholarships to students for the class or for other internal school use; this decision will be made by the grant recipient. More than one class may be conducted each calendar year, which means you can repeat a class in each quarter or semester of the year. Grants can be **reapplied** for up to five (5) years. This provision enables a school to develop a complete series of classes (or concentration) around the theology of work.

Grants awarded for continuing education training in pastor networks or groups (non-formal education, seminars and events a school, denomination or a church may hold in or outside an academic institution) are intended to fund the basic cost of the conducting the class on a per-student basis. Each grant request will be subject to a negotiation process based on the budget developed for the course. As for the formal grants described above, non-formal grant can also be reapplied for up to five (5) years.

At the completion of a grant-funded course or class, students are required to complete a short questionnaire which covers the essential principles of the class, and then submitted by the seminary or training group to the Theology of Work Director at Bakke Graduate University. Funds will be released contingent upon the number of students to finish the course and who complete the questionnaire requirement. .

Application forms for these two types of grants (formal and non-formal) are in Part 2, below.

Part 2: TOW Grant Application Process and Application Forms

Application Process

First, you may find it helpful to request additional grant information from BGU (see above). Also, you can have a personal conference about this grant program by contacting either Dr. Lowell Bakke at lowellb@bgu.edu.

The process for applying for grants is the same for both types of grants. In each case, the appropriate cover application form (formal education in seminaries and colleges or non-formal continuing education for pastors and other church leaders) must be submitted with supporting documentation as indicated below;

For Seminary/College Applications (one page each):

1. Background information with a Statement of faith and mission of your seminary/college
2. Background information about curriculum in which the theology of work will be integrated
3. Description or syllabi of the course in which the theology of work will be taught, and outcomes that will be expected in the educational experience of the students.
4. Projected budget based upon the number of students expecting to attend the course and the normal tuition charges students by your school, and whether the course will be repeated over period of time.

For Pastoral Group/Association Applications (one page each):

1. Background information on your organization with a Statement of faith and mission of your group/association
2. Background information about your continuing education program (new, on-going)
3. Description of the people that will attend the conference/continuing education classes (pastors, bi-vocational pastors and leaders, business people active in church leadership, etc), how the theology of work will be taught and experienced by the attendees, and a description of the context and format of the continuing education event.
4. Create a simple budget for the event. Reasonable requests will be considered based upon the number of class attendees, costs associated with conducting the classes, and costs of teaching materials and supplies. The final approved grant may require some negotiation between the MSF and the applying group. Requests for repeating the classes within a calendar year, and for a period of five years are encouraged, and will be considered on an individual basis.

Mustard Seed Foundation Theology of Work Grant Application Cover Form
For Seminary/College Educational Programs

Seminary/College Information

School Name: _____

School Address: _____

Contact Information

Name/Position: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Course Project Information

Course Name: _____

Credit/Course Hours _____

Degree/Context/Strand): _____

Professor of Record: _____

Course Duration/Times per Year: _____

Course Start Date(s): _____

Tuition per Student: _____

Total Amount (in US dollars)/Years of Funding: _____

My signature below confirms that this application is truthful and authentic. And confirms any potential funds awarded by the Mustard Seed Foundation will NOT be used for any political activities but will be used solely for the purposes stated on this application that are in fact religious in nature.

Signature of Authorized School Agent: _____ **Date:** _____

**Send with attachments to:
Bakke Graduate University
Theology of Work Grant Program
1013 Eighth Avenue, Suite 401
Seattle, WA 98104**

Mustard Seed Foundation Theology of Work Grant Application Cover Form
For Pastor Group/Association Continuing Education Programs

Pastoral Group/Association Information

Group/Association Name: _____

Group Affiliation: _____

Location/Address: _____

Group/Association Contact Information

Name/Relationship of Contact to Group: _____

Email: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Address: _____

Proposed Educational Project Information

Description/Purpose of Project: _____

Teacher(s)/Title(s) _____

Duration/Schedule of Project: _____

Amount requested in U.S. dollars/years of funding: \$ _____

Please include a budget for the non-formal course(s) included in this grant.

My signature below confirms that my application is truthful and authentic. My signature also confirms any potential funds awarded by the Mustard Seed Foundation will NOT be used for any political activities but will be used solely for the purposes stated on this application that are in fact religious in nature

Signature of Authorized Agent: _____ **Date** _____

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