Application Questions

Personal Essay Statements:
Please succinctly answer each of the questions below. Number your responses and use double-spaced 12-point font on 8.5 x 11” pages. Please include page numbers and your name on each page.

1) What is your concept of religious leadership? How do you understand this in terms of your calling?

2) Starr King’s educational philosophy requires self-direction and emphasizes academic inquiry and experiential learning. How would you assess your capability for and interest in these educational values?

3) We understand graduates of both programs (the M.Div. and the MASC programs) to be religious leaders. Starr King’s purpose is to educate progressive religious leaders, especially for the Unitarian Universalist ministry. Assess your abilities and gifts for the work of religious leadership, noting both your strengths and weaknesses for this work.

4) Describe your religious background and religious practices. Have you been involved in congregations and/or religious communities? Have you assumed leadership responsibilities? Please give details and dates.

5) Name five writings, films, or artistic works that have influenced you and explain how they have helped shape your life. Name two historical events, either in your lifetime or before you were born, that have been pivotal in your decision to pursue religious leadership – and describe their importance to you.

6) Describe your cross-cultural experiences, and your ability in languages other than your first language.

7) Describe your involvement in community service, arts and/or social activism.

8) Starr King embodies a curricular commitment to education to counter oppressions and create just and sustainable communities. How have these commitments shown up in your life? How will they manifest in your vocation?

9) How do you discern and attend to personal growth issues?

10) Do you have any concerns, whether physical, psychological or educational, that you would like us to know about? Is there anything else you would like to tell us?

Autobiographical Statement:

1) Please describe your development as a person. Indicate how the events and relationships you mention are important.

   Please limit your statement to five pages. Use double-spaced 12-point font on 8.5 x 11” pages. Please include page numbers and your name on each page.

Supplemental Essay Statements (Chaplaincy Institute Joint Programs)*:
(SKSM/Chi Joint Program Applicants Only)

Chaplaincy Program Essays:

1) What is your understanding of Interfaith thea/ologically and/or as a spiritual path?

2) Please describe your experience of caregiving relationships (i.e. ministry, volunteer, teaching, mentoring, counseling, family) and how they relate to your motivation to engage in interfaith studies.

3) Participants in this program must have good emotional support in their own lives. What changes or challenges (if any) are you currently experiencing in your spiritual and emotional life? What are sources of emotional support for you?

Spiritual Direction Program Essays:

1) Describe your experience of Spiritual Direction?

2) Explore your sense of call around the ministry of Spiritual Direction.

3) In what context do you see yourself working in Spiritual Direction (i.e. private practice, retreat work, group supervision, etc.)?

*Applicants to both the Chaplaincy and Spiritual Direction programs must complete both sets of questions.