



APPLICATION ESSAY & AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL 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. Limit your essays to a total of no more than 12 pages.

- 1) Starr King's purpose is to educate progressive spiritual leaders. What is your concept of religious leadership? Assess your abilities and gifts for religious leadership, noting both your strengths and weaknesses for this work.
- 2) Starr King's educational philosophy requires self-direction and emphasizes academic inquiry and experiential learning. Please describe your academic experience and preparedness for graduate study.
- 3) Starr King embodies a commitment to education to counter oppressions to create just and sustainable communities. How are these commitments present in your life? How might they manifest in your vocation?
- 4) Name five writings, films, or artistic works that have influenced you and explain how they have helped shape your life.
- 5) Name two historical events, either in your lifetime or before you were born, that have been pivotal in your decision to pursue spiritual leadership – and describe their importance to you.
- 6) What do you do for physical, psychological, and spiritual renewal? What are your self-care practices?
- 7) 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:

Please describe your development as a person. Be sure to include: your religious background, spiritual practices, and religious community involvement; any leadership responsibilities you may have assumed in your community; any involvement in community service, arts and/or social activism; and if you have been convicted of a felony, please include and explain that in your autobiographical statement.

Please limit your statement to no more than 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 Programs)*:

For All Chaplaincy Concentration Applicants, Only:

- 1) Have you experienced trauma? [Note: this could be anything from abuse, a life-changing medical event, difficulties in your family of origin, witnessing violence, or anything that has been traumatic for you.] If so, how have you worked with the experience of trauma in your own life and/or in your work with others? Has therapy, counseling or spiritual direction been part of your healing process? What are your self-care practices when trauma gets triggered?
- 2) Has addiction been part of your life experience – for yourself, your loved ones, or your family of origin? How have you worked with the experience of addiction in your own life and/or in your work with others? Has treatment, therapy or spiritual direction been part of your healing process? What are your self-care practices when addiction behaviors get triggered?
- 3) What is your understanding of Interfaith thea/ologically and/or as a spiritual path?
- 4) 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.
- 5) 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?