

Black Disciples Q & A – Thursday, June 19, 2025 (Zoom AI Generated Summary)

Elder Jackie Compton Bunch, President of the Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF), introduced the fund's grant process and history. The discussion covered BDEF's structure, grant areas, and recent awards, followed by details about the application process including deadlines and reporting requirements. The conversation ended with information about scholarship opportunities and a reminder that application details would be shared via email, with participants encouraged to submit their applications by the August 15th deadline.

Black Disciples Endowment Fund Overview

Elder Jackie Compton Bunch, President of the Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF), introduces the grant process and provides background information on the fund. She explains that BDEF was established in the late 1980s to support Black ministries within the Christian Church in the United States and Canada, anticipating a future lack of funds for these ministries. Jackie begins to present a PowerPoint to share more details about the grant areas and the fund's history.

BDEF Board and Fund Structure

Jackie introduces the board of directors for BDEF (Black Disciples Endowment Fund), listing their names and locations. She explains that BDEF is owned by the National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC), which also owns the National Convocation. Jackie outlines BDEF's structure, including the board of trustees, merchant fund, endowment fund, and fundraising efforts. She notes that most grants currently come from the endowment fund.

African American Grant Application Focus

Jackie outlines three areas for grant applications: leadership development, congregational growth and vitality, and advocacy for the well-being of the African American community. She provides details on each area, highlighting opportunities such as lay ministry development and black church work enhancement. Jackie also discusses the Board of Directors Fund's (BDF) partnerships, including support for the African American School of Faith and Life and efforts to recruit and educate African American clergy. She concludes by sharing examples of recent grants awarded to various churches and ministries in 2022 and 2023.

BDEF Grant Application Timeline

The application process for the Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF) grant is discussed. The administrative secretary explains that applications open on July 1st and are due by August 15th. The review process begins in September, with notifications sent to applicants by October. The grant schedule and application details can be found on the National Convocation website under

the BDEF Grant tab. Grant recipients are required to submit midyear and end-of-year reports on their progress and use of funds.

Black Disciples Grant Application Guidelines

The discussion focuses on the grant application process for the Black Disciples Endowment Fund. Jackie and National emphasize the importance of providing detailed and specific information in applications, including budgets and how funds will be used. They advise applicants not to leave anything blank and to be explicit about how the grant will support black ministry. National explains that a group reviews applications collaboratively, so applicants should not rely on knowing a single board member. They also mention that mid-year and end-of-year reports with pictures are required from grant recipients. Lastly, National confirms that a transcript of this Q&A session will be made available on the Black Disciples Endowment Fund page and Facebook.

BDEF Scholarship Grant Requirements

The discussion covers grant applications and scholarships offered by the Black Disciples Endowment Fund (BDEF). Jackie explains that scholarships are available for enrolled students who are performing well academically, but notes that the board needs to tighten up requirements, possibly including a way for recipients to give back. She mentions that BDEF has over a million dollars and has given about \$800,000 in grants since 1984. National clarifies that individual grants are up to \$5,000, to avoid any misunderstanding about the amount available.

Application Window Opening July 1st

National confirms that participants will receive an email reminder when the application window opens around July 1st. Elder Jackie emphasizes the importance of submitting paperwork. National encourages participants to apply, expressing excitement about supporting their ministry dreams. The application deadline is August 15th, and participants are invited to email national.convocation@disciples.org with any further questions.