

## **Florence Ellen Bell Scholar Award and the Bell Grant for the Study of Korean and Korean-American Methodism Research Prospectus Guidelines**

The United Methodist Archives & History Center, Drew University

Updated 2/20/24

### **What should I include in my 2-3 page prospectus?**

First, include a summary of your proposed research project that explains the topic and where the research contributes to a larger scholarly discipline. Second, provide a tentative timeline that shows what phase the research will be in at the time of the research visit and the anticipated completion date of the project. Third, list the key sources that will be examined from the Drew University Methodist Library and the archives of the General Commission on Archives and History of The United Methodist Church and why these sources are important for the project.

### **How many sources should I list in my prospectus?**

The exact number of items is not as important as reflecting an appropriate scope of materials for both the research period and the topic. Because the grants are designed to support study over a short research period, the source list should reflect several days' worth of research materials. Past awardees have typically completed a research residency of about five days of full-time research. For some, this has meant examining hundreds of individual manuscripts. For others, this has meant close readings of a handful of bulky volumes, several reels of microfilm, or a mix of materials.

Additionally, it is strongly advised that the source list be focused and specific. For instance, simply listing something like "all materials on the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society of The Methodist Episcopal Church" would not help an application be competitive because there are thousands of items that fall under that request. A researcher could not reasonably examine all these materials in a short research period.

### **What makes a research prospectus competitive?**

A competitive research prospectus highlights the necessity of research at The United Methodist Archives & History Center. Applicants are encouraged to clearly explain how the Center's unique holdings are essential to a research project.