

The Epworth Project Application

The Epworth Project is a program of The Missional Wisdom Foundation, providing participants a context to experience emergence, new monasticism, and missional ecclesiology within but not limited the United Methodist tradition. Epworth participants live in a monastic house, engage in ministries of hospitality in the neighborhood, learn about the theory and practices of emerging and new monastic ministries, and offer support in the worship and mission of the New Day community. The Epworth Project is open to single and married students, depending upon availability of housing. The Epworth Project does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, disability, denomination, national origin, sex, age, sexual orientation, or veteran status, but some houses are limited to one gender.

All application materials are due annually on July 15.

(Note: Houses are filled based on available space. Applications can be mailed any time of the year and will be considered if there is availability in a house. People are generally placed into houses during the summer, since many of our residents are students and they tend to transition over the summers. To be considered for the summer placement please follow this deadline. Put email to ask)

Application guidelines

1. The application should be submitted in one package containing the application form and all supporting documents in the order listed below.
2. **Do not staple** any of the pages or supporting documents
3. Faxed materials are strongly discouraged
4. Each applicant is responsible for ensuring completion of the application and receipt by the deadline.
5. If printing the application from an electronic version, please take care to not change the format.
6. Sent applications via email or a hard copy to the provided address.
7. **All application materials are due by 5 p.m. on July 15.**

Application includes:

- Application Process
- Application Information
- Resume
- Four-page essay (double-spaced, 12pt font)
- Signed Terms of Epworth Project
- Two Letters of Recommendation

Please email completed applications to:

ceciliah@missionalwisdom.com

or send a hard copy to
Rev. Ceciliah Igweta, Epworth Abbess
Missional Wisdom Foundation
6101 Iris Dr,
Rowlett, TX 75089

Application Process

Epworth Project uses a discernment process model for bringing in residents into its intentional Christian community houses. We use a discerning model to create space for the Spirit, so that the house and applicant are able to discern that this arrangement will be a good fit for both of them. We have an Abbess, the leader of the Epworth Project, and Epworth Project staff to walk along with you as you discern a calling into living in intentional Christian community. This process means that an applicant will not only turn in an application, but also have several interviews with the Epworth Project Abbess, Staff, and the house they could potentially live in. These realities mean that we move a bit slower than some programs, but we do so intentionally for the benefit of all parties involved. Below is a step by step outline of what your process will look like.

Discernment Process for Acceptance into the House

1. Application – Send in your application to the Abbess and the Epworth Project Staff before the summer acceptance date of July 15. (Remember that you are welcome to apply after this date, but those who send in their application beforehand will receive priority).
2. Confirmation – The Epworth Project Staff will let you know they received your application and read over it over the following week.
3. Contact – Epworth Project Staff will contact you within a week to two weeks about your application, letting you know if we would like to interview you.
 - a. We will work with you to arrange an initial meeting based on your location, whether that is meeting in person or via video call.
4. Interviews –*It is expected that you come to Dallas, no matter your current location, to visit the houses. We want the potential household to meet you in person and for you all to spend several hours together. We can accommodate a place for you to stay while you visit the houses and meet the staff. If for some reason you cannot make it to Dallas, please contact the Abbess and we will work with you.*
 - a. One interview with the Abbess and Epworth Staff Members
 - b. One Interview with one to two houses that have space available.
 - c. If necessary, one final interview with Epworth Staff and the House Steward of the potential house of placement.
5. Discernment – After the interviews and your visit, the Epworth Project Staff and the House Steward will prayerfully consider a final decision. You will hear a response within a week after your final interview.
6. Acceptance – If it is discerned that you are a good fit for the house the Epworth Project will offer you a place in the house. You have the freedom to accept the offer or to say no. If you accept the offer, then you, the House Steward, and the Epworth Project Staff will coordinate a move in date. (Note: Epworth activities start at the end of August).
7. 60 Day Discernment Period – Once you move in, you will enter a 60 day discernment period for living in the house. We offer this period of time because sometimes people move into a house and find it is not quite what they were expecting or prepared for. This discernment period is to allow for space to make sure that living in community is good for you and this combination of people works well in the house.
 - a. The House Steward and you will go through orientation of living in community together during your first week together.

- b. After 30 days the House Steward will check in with you and then write up a reflection on how things are going, which will be shared with the Epworth Project Staff.
- c. In your second month, one of the Epworth Project Staff will check in with you based on the reflection.
- d. After the 60 day discernment period, there will be one more check in with you.
- e. Note – We want to make sure this opportunity is a space that you can thrive and flourish in. If at any point during the 60 day discernment, you discern that this way of life is not for you, that it is perfectly okay. We will work with you and the house to transition you out in a respectful and fair way.
- f. Note – Very seldom, we find that we need to ask a new resident to leave the house they have been placed. Unfortunately, even when going through the whole discernment process, there are times when things do not work out and people are not quite ready for community life. The Epworth Project reserves the right to ask you leave the community if they discern that community is not the best place for you to be at this time. Again we will work with you and the house to transition you out in a respectful and loving way.

Application Information

Essay Questions – a maximum of four pages, double spaced, 12 pt. font

Each applicant must read over the Epworth Project's Rule of Life (Included with application). A rule of life comes from a monastic practice of creating a covenant commitment that the community agrees to abide by. While it says 'rule,' the tenants stipulated are more like guidelines that orient us towards life giving ways of life in community. We are meant to strive towards these tenants, but not expected to austere follow them. Our rule of life is based on the United Methodist Membership vows of Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness. The five of these make a "mark" by which we cultivate our life around in community. Write an essay discussing the following:

- a. Which "mark" of the Epworth Project Rule of Life most interests you and which "mark" that you think would be most difficult as you consider living in intentional community?
- b. Why are you interested in communal living and what you hope to learn?
- c. What you will bring to the community, such as:
 - a. Your personality
 - b. Your understanding of and experience with intentional community living, including a brief synopsis of all books read/experiences had with emerging ministry and new monasticism.
- d. What is your experience of individual and corporate prayer?
- e. How do you engage with conflict.
 - a. Please give specific and realistic examples especially engaging Matthew 18:15–20.
- f. Your experience in serving your immediate community.

Resume

A professional resume is required including past work history. Please highlight leadership and involvement in the church, in your community, cross-cultural study or experiences, academic or other honors and distinctive experiences, skills, or interests.

Letters of recommendation

Two letters of recommendation are required. The letter should be written by a person who has observed the applicant in a service, work, or classroom setting and is able to assess the applicant's gifts and aptitudes for living and working in intentional Christian community. Letters from relatives or family members are not acceptable. The letter should be enclosed in a sealed and signed envelope.

Terms of Epworth Project

New Residents are required to move in and participate in all orientation activities beginning in August. Once fully accepted after the 60 Day Discernment Period, you are agreeing to live in residence at least through May. You must notify the Epworth Project Staff if you plan on transitioning out of the house at that time. As well, you will be asked to do an annual check in if you plan on continuing living in the house for another cycle.

Pets

If you are planning on bringing a pet, you must secure permission from the Abbess. Send pet medical and vaccination records with the application or email them to the Abbess. Be sure to check "yes" if you plan on bringing a pet in the application. We recommend bringing your pet during the interviews, so we can meet the pet. Know that some houses are not able to have pets due to them being parsonages of churches. One must show that they have the financial resources to be able to care for the pet. They are responsible for all costs of their pet, including flea and tick preventative. If there is any damage or infestation to the house, the owner is also responsible for the repairs.

The Epworth Rule of Life

- Prayers
 - We will pray daily
 - We will use a variety of forms of prayer such as reflective reading of scripture and other spiritual texts, confession, the prayer of examen, intercession, journaling, and contemplation.
 - We will fast from food once a week
- Presence
 - We will practice a contemplative stance in order to be present to God, the world, and ourselves
 - We will be hospitable to our neighbors in our families, neighborhoods, and workplaces.
 - We will be hospitable to our faith community through participation in our worship, fellowship and mission.
- Gifts
 - We will honor and care for the gift of the earth and its resources, practicing ecologically responsible living, striving for simplicity rather than excessive consumption.
 - We will practice generosity in sharing our material resources, including money, within and beyond this community.
 - We will use our spiritual gifts, talents, and abilities to serve God within and beyond this community.
- Service
 - We will serve God and neighbors out of gratitude for the love of God
 - We will practice mutual accountability with a covenant group within the community, for how we serve God and neighbor.
 - We will practice regular Sabbath as a means of renewal so that we can lovingly serve God and neighbor.
- Witness
 - We will practice racial and gender reconciliation.
 - We will resist evil and injustice.
 - We will pursue peace with justice.
 - We will share the redeeming, healing, creative love of God in word, deed, and presence as an invitation to others to experience the transforming love of God.

I commit to this rule of life and to the well-being of this community, out of gratitude to God who forgives, heals, and makes all things new. May my life be a blessing within and beyond God's church, for the transformation of the world.

The Epworth Project Application

Applicant Information

Name: _____ Male Female
LAST FIRST MIDDLE

Current address

City State Zip

Is this address effective during the school year? Yes No

E-mail: _____ Telephone: _____
HOME CELL

Permanent mailing address

City State Zip

Is this address effective for summer mail? Yes No

Date of birth _____ Country of citizenship United States Canada
MONTH DAY YEAR

Marital status Number of children

Race/Ethnicity (optional)

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> African American, Black
<input type="checkbox"/> Native American, (list tribal affiliation)
<input type="checkbox"/> Asian American
<input type="checkbox"/> Puerto Rican American | <input type="checkbox"/> Mexican American, Chicano
<input type="checkbox"/> White, Caucasian, European American
<input type="checkbox"/> Hispanic, Latino/a
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: |
|--|--|

Educational Information

College or University

Graduation Date

Employment Information

Current Employer

Nature of Employment & Hours/Week

Church Information (if available); not used as a factor for admission
Denominational affiliation

Church membership
NAME OF HOME CHURCH

Address

City

Phone number

Pastor's name
TITLE FIRST LAST

Service and Leadership Information

Please list all experiences on campus, within a congregation, non-profit organization, or other ministry setting (if necessary attach additional pages if necessary):

Other Helpful Information

Do you have any pre-existing health conditions that will require attention? (If yes, please explain.)

_____ Yes _____ No

Do you plan on bringing a pet? _____ Yes _____ No

(Note: All pets must be approved by the Abbess. Please send vaccination and medical records to her with the application or via email.)

Will you have health insurance coverage? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you have a driver's license? _____ Yes _____ No

Do you plan to bring a car? _____ Yes _____ No

Have you ever been convicted of a felony? Yes _____ No _____

(If yes, please explain on a separate sheet of paper. Some placements require a background check.)

Emergency Contact:

Name & Relationship to You

Address and Phone Number:

How did you hear about the Epworth Project?

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Professor | <input type="checkbox"/> New Day member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Career Center | <input type="checkbox"/> New Day website |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pastor | <input type="checkbox"/> Perkins student (past or present) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Friend | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: |

How would you characterize your vocational interest(s)

- I am uncertain about my vocational direction.
 - I am exploring ministry as a vocation.
 - I plan to seek ordained ministry.
 - I am seriously considering employment in a non-profit or faith-based organization.
 - Other (Please describe)
-

What degree program will you be pursuing? (If applicable)

Worksite Preferences:

To help us match your interests with the needs in our communities, please rate the service areas listed below from 1 (most interest) to 10 (least interest). Please note that not every opportunity listed below is available every year, and other possibilities might arise.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| _____ Poverty/Homelessness | _____ Community Organization |
| _____ Recovering Addicts | _____ Elderly |
| _____ Disability Issues | _____ Women's Issues |
| _____ Prison Ministry/
Death Penalty Issues | _____ Teaching/Literacy |
| _____ Children/Youth | _____ Agricultural/ Urban Gardening |
| _____ Multi-cultural ministry | _____ other (please specify) |

Terms of Epworth Project

I understand that should I be chosen to participate in the Epworth Project, I agree to (please initial):

____ 1. Be subject to a term of probationary residence that will last sixty days from the time of move-in. At the end of this probationary term, the Epworth Project Staff may discern that continued involvement with the Epworth Project is not in the best interest of all concerned, and reserve the right to ask the probationary resident to move out.

____ 2. That if the Epworth Project Staff determines, at any time and in their discretion, that the continued participation of a resident is detrimental to the goals or life of the community, any resident may be asked to leave the community with 30 days notice. If a resident is asked to leave the community he or she is responsible to secure their own housing elsewhere and is responsible for all moving expenses incurred. They are also responsible for making sure their room is cleaned well for future residents.

____ 3. Be purposeful in living out the spiritual disciplines/practices of the Epworth House they live in.

____ 4. Consent to the terms outlined in the Epworth Project Lease Agreement, including move-in/move-out procedure. The Abbess must receive a 30-day in advance move out notice from participants. Their room must be thoroughly cleaned for future residents.

____ 5. Be respectful of the Rule of Life and daily rhythms of the house of residence and commit to being an active part of continuing to shape and uphold the rule.

____ 6. Contribute equitably to the monthly bills of the house, including utilities, internet, etc. (A monthly estimate for chosen house can be given upon request before move-in.)

____ 7. Pending approval by the Abbess, to cover the cost and care of my pet, to ensure that the pet is healthy and the household is maintained appropriately. Any damage or infestation to the house is the responsibility of the owner of the pet.

____ 8. To arrive to the house site at the time deemed by the Epworth Project Staff, ready to participate fully in all aspects of the program. All individuals should be physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually prepared for their year in community.

I have read the above paragraph and agree to the Epworth Project Terms. I affirm that the information I have provided on this application (including all attachments) is true and correct.

Signature and Date:

Epworth Project 2017-2018 Application

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

To the Applicant:

You will need to make a copy of this page for each person providing a recommendation. Please fill out this form and give it to those persons providing letters of recommendation for you. They may mail their recommendation letters directly to The Epworth Project, or return their letters in sealed envelopes for you to mail with your completed application. Please allow your recommenders time to get their letters to us before our deadlines.

The Educational Rights and Privacy Act allows an applicant to waive his or her rights to access confidential letters or statements written on his or her behalf if the recommendation is used solely for purposes of admission or financial aid. The Epworth Project does not require you to sign a waiver as a condition of being considered for placement in a house. You are free to maintain your right to access this recommendation or waive that right. Please check one of the following statements:

- I waive my right to examine this recommendation.
- I do not waive my right to examine this recommendation.

Print Applicant Name

Applicant Signature

Date

To the Person Providing the Recommendation:

The person whose name appears above is applying for a fellowship from the Epworth Project. We are interested in knowing about this person's capabilities as demonstrated in a role of service to the wider community, with particular focus on his or her faith, theological curiosity, perseverance, passion, and love. Please limit your response to one typed page. Thank you.

Please place the applicant's name and your name at the top of each page of any additional documentation you wish to include.

Please return these materials to the applicant in a sealed and signed envelope, or mail/email directly to:

Rev. Cecilian Igweta, Epworth Abbess
Missional Wisdom Foundation
6101 Iris Dr,
Rowlett, TX 75089

Or email scanned copy to
cecilian@missionalwisdom.com

Epworth Project 2017-2018 Application

Recommendation Instructions:

Please provide two (2) letters of recommendation and list who will provide these letters.

1. _____
 Name Address Email Phone # Relationship to You

2. _____
 Name Address Email Phone # Relationship to You

Recommendation letters may be mailed directly to The Epworth Project or returned to the applicant in sealed envelopes for the applicant to mail with the completed application. Please allow your recommenders time to get their letters to us before our deadlines. Recommendations may be mailed or emailed to:

Rev. Cecilian Igweta, Epworth Abbess
Missional Wisdom Foundation
6101 Iris Dr,
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Or email scanned copy to
cecilian@missionalwisdom.com