

**The Historic Bethel Baptist Church Community
Restoration Fund Presents**

There IS A Balm In Gilead:

Healing From The Events of 1963 Conference

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

To be considered for a scholarship, applicants must submit a complete application as outlined below.

Applicants: What You Need to Know

1. The **“There IS A Balm In Gilead Conference”** provides K-12 educators an opportunity to enrich and revitalize their teaching through the study of the Modern Civil Rights Movement and the events that took place in Birmingham in 1963. Participants will receive a certificate at the end of the conference.

2. **What is the format of the “There IS A Balm In Gilead Conference?”** This scholarship opportunity is open to 20 participants to study events that took place in Birmingham and across the nation in 1963, and the need to foster healing for individuals and communities so impacted with a team of experienced scholars. The conference includes travel to key sites of memory in Birmingham, Alabama; 38 breakout sessions; 1 featured speaker; and 4 keynote addresses. Time is provided to help teachers enhance their overall knowledge of this era and explore instructional strategies designed to engage, educate, and increase student interaction and retention.

3. **What is provided for and required of participants?**
 - a. Scholarship Recipients will receive financial support to help cover registration, housing, dinner, travel, and substitute teachers. Financial support for the conference is taxable.
 - b. Conditions of the Award: Applicants must attend and actively participate in designated humanities/educator sessions. Scholarship recipients must

- attend all keynote and featured sessions, and at least 8 Breakout Sessions.
- c. During the conference, participants may not undertake teaching assignments or professional activities unrelated to the conference.
 - d. Those who, for any reason, do not complete the full tenure of the conference will not have all of their conference expenses covered.
 - e. Scholarship recipients must submit an evaluation at the end of the conference.

Principles of Civility

The ***There IS A Balm In Gilead***: Healing From The Events of 1963 Conference is intended to extend and deepen knowledge and understanding of the Modern Civil Rights Movement and the events that took place in Birmingham by focusing on significant topics, texts, and issues; contribute to the intellectual vitality and professional development of participants; and foster a community of inquiry that provides models of excellence in scholarship and teaching.

Conference presentations and discussions will be:

1. firmly grounded in rigorous scholarship and thoughtful analysis
2. conducted without partisan advocacy
3. respectful of divergent views
4. free from ad hominem commentary
5. devoid of ethnic, religious, gender or racial bias.

4. Who is eligible?

- a. This conference is designed primarily for full-time K-12 educators who teach in public, charter, independent, and religiously affiliated schools. We will also admit a limited number of educators who work outside the K-12 classroom and who can demonstrate that participation will advance conference goals and enhance their professional work.

5. How will participants be selected?

- a. A selection committee, comprised of the conference director and two or more colleagues, will evaluate all **complete** applications to select a group of 20 conference attendees and to identify alternates.

b. **What are the selection criteria?** Eligibility will be determined, based on the information contained in the applicant's resume', essay, and letter of reference:

- The applicant's effectiveness and commitment as a teacher/educator;
- The applicant's intellectual interests as they relate to the topic of the Institute;
- The applicant's perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the conference;
- Evidence that participation in the conference will have a long-term impact on the applicant's teaching.

c. Categories of preference that would affect decisions, such as:

- At least five institute spaces will be reserved for teachers who are new to the profession (those who have been teaching for five years or less).

6. What comprises a complete application? A complete application will contain:

a. A "Cover Sheet" that includes the participant's name; address; preferred email; home, mobile, and school telephone numbers; institution name, city, and state; institution type; grade levels taught; subjects taught; number of years of teaching experience; and number of students taught per year.

In addition to the applicant data "Cover Sheet," applications must also include the following: applicant's maximum three-page resume', maximum of a two-page essay, and a letter of reference. The essay and letter of reference, as outlined above, should address the following:

- The applicant's effectiveness and commitment as a teacher/educator;
- The applicant's intellectual interests as they relate to the topic of the Institute;
- The applicant's perspectives, skills, or experiences that would contribute to the conference;

- Evidence that participation in the conference will have a long-term impact on the applicant's teaching.

7. When and how should an application be submitted?

- a. All applications must be submitted by **Monday, August 14, 2023, by 11:59 p.m.**
- b. Please submit your completed application to the attention of **Dr. Martha Bouyer at: historicbethel@thereisabalmingileadconference.com.**

8. When will applicants be notified and need to respond?

- a. All applicants will be notified on Friday, August 18, 2023.
- b. Successful applicants must accept or decline the offer by Friday, August 23, 2023.

9. How might COVID affect the project?

The "There IS A Balm in Gilead: Healing From The Events of 1963" Conference - Workshop for Classroom Teachers is a residential program. Depending on public health guidelines related to COVID-19, plans for a residential offering are subject to change.