

The Laity Fellowship Program

Introduction

The H. E. Butt Foundation is a private operating foundation established in 1933 by Howard and Mary Holdsworth Butt.

Vision

So that God may be glorified and the nations come to faith . . . our vision is to equip believers in Jesus Christ to practice servant leadership as modeled by the Holy Trinity to renew ourselves, families, institutions, and society.

Mission

The renewal of society through the
renewal of the church;
Church renewal through renewal of the family;
Family renewal through renewed individuals

The H. E. Butt Foundation Fellowship Program helps young leaders envision their entire lives as a response to God's calling, and work toward the renewal of society.

It aims to provide recent graduates with a holistic experience that encourages them to bring their faith to bear on all areas of their lives.

The Fellowship Program is a twelve-month learning community for emerging leaders. The goal is to help them discern where God is leading them in Christian discipleship and to follow this throughout their life's work.

The Program equips young leaders to discern and pursue their vocation from the perspective of faith and to engage strategically the culture of the 21st century.

Those young leaders who participate in the Fellowship Program, called "Fellows," because of their participation in a fellowship of learning, divide their time amongst a number of activities:

- Work daily by helping to facilitate the operations of the Laity Ministries.
- Participate in an ongoing community of like-minded young leaders working and learning together.
- Engage in readings and small-group discussions that explore the meaning of calling and cultural engagement while developing an integrated Christian worldview.
- Receive guidance and mentoring through periodic meetings with a distinguished leader in a discipline similar to their own.

Foundation Fellowship Program Goals and Responsibilities:

1. Professional Development:

The goal of professional development is to give each Fellow firsthand experience as a paid intern in a Christian, nonprofit organization by interning for one or more of the different facets of the H. E. Butt Foundation, including Laity Lodge Youth Camp, Laity Lodge Family Camp, and Laity Lodge. Within each of these departments, Fellows will have the opportunity to experience staff development and leadership, to recruit, plan and organize retreats and events, build relationships and trust with those reached by the Foundation, and gain knowledge and insight to working for and with leaders in a nonprofit arena. The Fellows will be able to participate with the development department in seeking financial support for the fellowship program. The Fellows will also be able to participate with the budgeting process of one and/or all of the different areas of the Foundation to further their understanding of the planning and executing of programs carried on by Foundation groups.

2. Spiritual Development:

The goal of spiritual development is to allow each Fellow to maintain Jesus Christ as the focus and main priority of their life. We believe a working environment is not just a place for tasks to be done, but for the Lord to be sought out and glorified as well. Each Fellow will be assigned a mentor from the Foundation that they will meet with once a week based on a schedule established by the mentor and Fellow. The Fellows will also meet together as an accountability group once a week for prayer and discussion. The Fellows will participate in a Bible study group that will meet once a week. The study will be chosen by the Fellowship Director. Once a month, the Fellows will meet for a day retreat for study, discussion, and fellowship. The Fellows will also attend one or more conferences during the year to further their spiritual education.

3. Personal Development:

The goal of personal development is to provide the Fellow with a positive environment in which he or she is able to learn more about themselves as an individual in Christ and in the working world. The Fellow will sit down with their department head and Fellowship Director once a month to debrief and evaluate the previous month's work. All Fellows will also sit down with each department individually and learn about the other aspects of the organization that they may not get to experience on a daily basis. The mentor program and conference will also contribute to personal development as well as spiritual.

Program Benefits to the Fellows Themselves

The Foundation Fellowship Program provides an opportunity for college graduates to gain experience in nonprofit ministry before pursuing further education or a career in the workforce. By participating as a Fellow, each person will be given chances to work in an uplifting environment, start each day with prayer, and participate in Bible studies along with their coworkers (experiences they may never get in their jobs again). This program also begins the process of teaching college graduates how to function in life outside the classroom and work well with their peers and supervisors in a corporate setting. Because the Fellows are considered employees of the Foundation, they will learn valuable lessons on working well in a successful company and how to perform tasks asked of and assigned to them. But more importantly, the Fellows are experiencing spiritual and personal growth in a new and unique way. Instead of being thrown in to the real world directly after college, these young adults are given incredible resources to help them succeed and grow. By meeting with mentors and being able to debrief and openly discuss issues with their employers, these Fellows are gaining valuable skills on how to address issues in the work place, deal with those issues in a healthy manner, and most importantly seek and discern the Lord's will in all of those situations. This program will help them discover their strengths and gifts, as well as help them discover the path they wish to take next in their lives. They will also meet and interact with a wide variety of people, and experience a deep sense of fellowship with each other and Foundation employees. All in all, this year-long journey will provide them with the tools and training to discern God's calling to Christian discipleship and to pursue this throughout their life's work in a secular or nonsecular capacity and become a Christian leader in either environment.