

Abundance, Trust, and Repair: Black Theological Perspectives on Giving

Request for Proposals (RFP)

An effort to create a new resource about giving in Black faith communities is underway. Both the [Center for the Church and the Black Experience](#) at Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary and [Lake Institute on Faith & Giving](#), a part of the Lilly Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University Indianapolis, are partnering to contribute to the field of research and build on the existing collection of resources about Black philanthropy. This new project is part of Lake's broader [Philanthropy and the Black Church](#) initiative, created to increase mutual understanding and collaboration between congregations and organizations rooted in the Black church tradition and philanthropic institutions. **At the heart of this new project is how economic justice, divine trust, and congregational life are expressed in Black faith communities.**

The **Abundance, Trust, and Repair: Black Theological Perspectives on Giving** working group will bring together practitioners and scholars, rooted or based in Black religious traditions, to create a resource about giving in Black faith communities. This resource will be a compilation of essays and case studies offering a more expansive picture of what giving looks like in Black faith communities specifically for leaders engaged in congregational leadership, academic scholarship, institutional philanthropy, and community organizing.

A convening will provide an opportunity for individuals, representing a wide range of experiences, disciplines, and connections to Black faith communities, to workshop and sharpen ideas that will serve as the contributions to a published collection. Together they will not only share their papers about generosity in Black faith communities but also receive and give feedback about one another's work.

To be considered for this convening, we are inviting individuals to submit a 300-500-word proposal. Included below are three sections or themes for the working group: economic practice, divine trust, or congregational life. Under each section, is a set of questions intended to spark your imagination. Your response can be in the form of a scholarly article, case study, or practical reflection. While reviewers will be open to a wide range of responses, proposals will be given special consideration if they address one of the topics listed underneath the questions.

Section One: Economic Practice

If your proposal will be a response to one of these economic practice prompts, please focus on one economic practice, tradition, or example.

- Prompts: How do Black faith communities understand and practice economic justice—not only as advocacy or policy engagement, but as a lived theological commitment expressed through stewardship, mutual aid, philanthropy, and community care? What historical memories, spiritual traditions, and contemporary economic realities most shape these practices today?

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1. Theological frameworks within Black theology that challenge narratives of lack and promote spiritual and material flourishing.
2. Historical and contemporary practices of giving as acts of resistance to economic exploitation and racialized capitalism.
3. The integration of economic justice, stewardship, and abundance in preaching, discipleship, and leadership development.

Section Two: Divine Trust

- Prompts: In contexts marked by economic precarity and systemic inequity, how do Black congregations cultivate and sustain trust in God—and how does that divine trust inform decisions about giving, risk-taking, leadership, and long-term institutional survival? Where do you see tensions, contradictions, or transformations emerging in this trust?
 1. The theological and practical significance of collective giving and mutual aid as expressions of beloved community.
 2. The role of trust in divine provision and communal accountability in Black Christian stewardship practices.
 3. A differentiation between prosperity theology and liberation theology to uncover faithful paradigms for abundance in marginalized communities.

Section Three: Congregational Life

It's important to note that congregational life here is specifically related to embodied practices and ecclesial imagination.

- Prompts: How are economic justice and divine trust embodied in the everyday life of Black congregations—in worship, preaching, governance, pastoral care, and community engagement—and what does this reveal about the moral imagination and future of Black faith institutions? What practices deserve greater visibility, documentation, or theological reflection?
 1. The biblical concept of Jubilee as a theological foundation for reparations, redistribution, and economic restoration.
 2. A centering of the experiences and leadership of Black women in sustaining church economies and theological visions of abundance.
 3. An interrogation of how systemic injustice intersects with Black giving patterns and how churches subvert these barriers through faith-rooted generosity.
 4. The role of spiritual imagination, prayer, and prophecy in informing alternative economic practices rooted in abundance, equity, and love.
 5. The importance of narrative and storytelling.

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Proposal Guidance

As a reminder, the questions and topics above are meant to spark imagination. You *do not* need to address every topic numbered below the questions in your proposal. Reviewers will be most interested in what you would like to write about pertaining to giving in Black faith communities through the lens of economic justice, divine trust, or congregational life.

The proposal could be a scholarly article, case study, or practical theological reflection and include references to a giving practice in the Black church tradition, a theological framework, and questions or topics that could be explored in an expanded version of the proposal. **To apply, complete the form [linked here](#) which includes places to upload a 300-500-word proposal (single-spaced) and a CV/resume by Wednesday, April 1.**

Application proposals will be reviewed in early April. If selected, contributors will have around three months to write a 20-page paper, an extended version of their proposal. Those papers will need to be submitted by July 1, before the in-person gathering in the fall of 2026. Contributors invited to the in-person gathering will be provided with lodging, meals during the gathering, a reimbursement for their travel expenses, and a \$1,000 honorarium.

We believe your experience and insight will contribute to this resource for leaders interested in learning more about giving in Black faith communities. Please contact Tasha Gibson (tashgibs@iu.edu) with any questions. We look forward to your application.