Dear Friend,

Re: Application for Institute Grant

We are in receipt of your request to attend our training institutes here at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University in Memphis, TN.

We understand that, in order to attend these institutes, you will require grant funds to cover your tuition and accommodation. Therefore, attached you will find a grant application form together with instructions for its completion.

Please note the following conditions:

1. Our response to your application will be communicated to you in writing.
2. If your application is approved, you are responsible:
   a) To secure funds sufficient to cover your transportation to and from Memphis, TN.
   b) To apply for and obtain your visa to enter the United States, if required. In this case, we will send you the necessary letters of invitation and official documents.

Thank you for your interest in our training institutes. We look forward to receiving your application as soon as possible.

The Vision

It is our vision at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University to equip and encourage pastors and lay leaders in expository preaching and exemplary living in the power of the Holy Spirit, to the end that the church will be revived and the world will be reached with the saving Word of Christ.
The Olford Institute Faculty

Dr. Ken Easley is Program Director, Master of Christian Studies, at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University in Memphis, Tennessee. He received his Master of Divinity from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Illinois, and his Ph.D. from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He is the author of a number of books including The Illustrated Guide to Biblical History. Dr. Easley previously served on the faculty of Mid-America Baptist Theological School for seventeen years as Professor of New Testament and Greek. He and his wife, Nancy, have one married son.

Dr. David Olford is the Stephen Olford Professor of Expository Preaching at Union University as well as the special assistant to the President of the University, Dr. David Dockery. Dr. Olford holds a B.A. and M.A. from Wheaton College and a PhD from Sheffield University. David and his father, the late Dr. Stephen F. Olford, co-authored the widely acclaimed book, Anointed Expository Preaching. David also compiled a series of essays on the art of preaching by renowned Christian leaders in a book entitled A Passion for Preaching. David joined Olford Ministries International in 1985 and ministered with his father for over 19 years across the United States and in numerous countries worldwide. He and his wife, Ellen, have two daughters.

Dr. Ted Rendall is Institute Lecturer, Resident Minister, and Curator of the Rendall Collection at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University. Dr. Rendall is a prolific author and served as editor of The Prairie Overcomer for 31 years. He is Chancellor Emeritus of the Prairie Bible Institute and Pastor Emeritus of the Prairie Tabernacle Church, both in Alberta, Canada. Dr. Rendall speaks regularly at conferences and seminars in the United States and worldwide. Dr. Rendall and his wife, Hester, frequently minister at conferences often addressing the subject of revival.

Dr. Stephen F. Olford (1918-2004) was the founder and chairman of Olford Ministries International, Inc., and the senior lecturer of the Institute for Biblical Preaching until his death in 2004. For over 60 years, Dr. Olford faithfully preached and taught the Word of God as an itinerant evangelist, church planter, pastor, and radio and television broadcaster. In 1980, Dr. Olford founded The Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching as a center for training, encouraging, and mentoring pastors and lay leaders. For more than 50 years, Dr. Stephen was married to his wife, Heather, a distinguished pianist, who regularly ministers in music at institute events.
INSTRUCTIONS

Step One: Read all the material carefully, thoroughly, and prayerfully.

Step Two: Carefully and legibly complete the application form and questions.

Step Three: By your signature, indicate your agreement to our Statement of Faith and your compliance with the Qualifications for Participation.

Step Four: Return your signed, completed application form, answers to the questions, signed Statement of Faith, and a letter of recommendation to:

The Stephen Olford Center at Union University
Grant Application Dept.
4000 Riverdale Road
Memphis, TN 38115
U.S.A.

Fax: 1-901-757-1372
E-mail: socinfo@uu.edu
INSTITUTE GRANT APPLICATION FORM

(Please type or print legibly all answers)

Name _____________________________________________________________

Mailing Address __________________________________________________

City _____________________________________________________________

State _____________________________________________________________

Country ___________________ Zip Code (if applicable) ________________

Telephone Number ______________ Fax Number (if any) ________________

E-mail (if any) ___________________________

Name of Church/ Mission /Denomination__________________________________

Position/Occupation _________________________________________________

Institute (s) for which you are submitting this grant application:

1. ____________________________ Date: ________________________

2. ____________________________ Date: ________________________
Qualifications for Participation

Read each of the following statements and place an X on the blank line acknowledging your agreement and compliance with each requirement.

_____ I have trusted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

_____ I am committed to living an obedient Christian life, seeking to grow in holiness and righteousness each day in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ.

_____ I believe that the Holy Bible is God’s inspired, inerrant, and infallible Word and that it is the ultimate authority for all matters of faith and practice.

_____ I strongly desire to faithfully and fully preach and teach the Word of God.

_____ I am in a position of leadership in my church/denomination/mission agency, which provides me with opportunities to teach others.

_____ I have had at least 5 years of preaching and church leadership experience in a pastoral capacity.

_____ Within 12 months of returning home, I commit to training at least 25 other pastors, teachers, missionaries, and/or church leaders the material that I will learn at your institutes.

_____ I can write and speak the English language fluently.

_____ If my grant application is approved and I am able to attend your institutes, I commit to the following schedule:

  • I will arrive at the Stephen Olford Center in Memphis no earlier than 3 days prior to the commencement of the first institute and depart no later than 2 days after the conclusion of the final institute.
  • I agree to adhere strictly to these arrival and departures dates.
  • I understand that I will not be permitted to remain on campus outside of the above-stated dates.

_____ I understand and agree with the following stipulations:

  • This grant application is for me only and not for my spouse or anyone else.
  • Any other person, regardless of relationship to me, who may wish to attend the institutes at the Stephen Olford Center must submit his/her own application.
I am willing to be contacted and interviewed by a representative of The Stephen Olford Center at Union University.

I agree to pay a registration fee of $75.00 (U.S. dollars) on arrival at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University. I understand that if I do not pay this registration fee immediately upon arrival I will not be allowed to stay.

I agree that I must pay for all my traveling expenses and bring with me any extra spending money that I need. I understand the Stephen Olford Center at Union University does not and will not provide any funds for any purposes whatsoever.

I agree, no later than six weeks prior to the start of the first institute, to provide you with my travel schedule (name of airline, flight numbers, arrival and departure times) as well as a photocopy of my actual return airline tickets.

I agree, while at your institutes, not to solicit funds or materials for any purpose whatsoever.

I understand and agree that the sole purpose for my presence at The Stephen Olford Center at Union University is to attend and learn from the institutes. To that end, I agree to attend all the scheduled classes.

I have obtained and am including with my application a letter of recommendation from an overseer, pastor, or recognized church/denominational leader, which clearly states the value of these institutes for my ministry and my ability to train others in ministry.

I understand that I must be willing to obtain all the appropriate documents for legal departure from and return to my homeland and for my stay in the United States of America. I understand that The Stephen Olford Center at Union University will send one (and only one) letter of invitation to the appropriate U.S. Embassy in my homeland and that you will not fax or call any embassy on my behalf.

I understand and agree that, if the institute for which I am applying is cancelled for any reason, the Stephen Olford Center at Union University is not responsible for any costs I may have incurred (such as airline tickets). To this end, I understand that is would be best to purchase refundable tickets.

I have read the above “Qualifications for Participation” and completely agree with the same.

Print Name________________________________________________________

Signed: ___________________________________________ Date: ________________
Our Statement of Faith

1. The Scriptures
   The Scriptures of the Old and New Testament were given by inspiration of God, and are the only sufficient, certain and authoritative rule of all saving knowledge, faith, and obedience.

2. God
   There is but one God, the Maker, Preserver and Ruler of all things, having in and of Himself, all perfections, being infinite in them all; and to Him all creatures owe the highest love, reverence and obedience. He exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit each with distinct personal attributes, but without division of nature, essence or being. God ordains or permits all things that come to pass, and perpetually upholds, directs and governs all creatures and all events; yet so as not to destroy the free will and responsibility of intelligent creatures.

3. Humankind
   God originally created humankind in His image, and free from sin; but through the temptation of Satan, they transgressed the command of God, and fell from their original righteousness, whereby all humans have inherited a sinful nature that is opposed to God, and are thus under condemnation. As soon as they are capable of moral action, they become actual transgressors.

4. Jesus Christ
   The second person of the Trinity is the eternal Son of God. In his incarnation Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. Jesus perfectly revealed and did the will of God, taking upon Himself human nature, yet without sin. He honored the divine law by His personal obedience, and by His substitutionary death on the cross He made provision for our redemption from sin. He was buried and rose again the third day, and ascended to His Father, at whose right hand He lives to make intercession for His people. He is the only Mediator, the Prophet, Priest and King of the Church, and Sovereign of the universe.

5. Holy Spirit
   The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God, fully divine, who exalts Jesus Christ. The Spirit convicts men and women of sin, of righteousness, and judgment, enabling them to understand the truth. He calls men and women to the Savior, and brings about regeneration, which is a renewal of heart and nature.

6. Salvation
   Salvation involves the redemption of the whole person, and is offered freely to all who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; accepting and trusting in Him alone for justification and eternal life. Justification is God’s gracious declaration of righteousness of sinners, who believe in Christ, from all sin, through the satisfaction that Christ has made. Believers are also sanctified by God’s Word and Spirit dwelling in them. Sanctification is the process of progressing toward moral and spiritual maturity, enabled by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Those who are accepted in Christ and
sanctified by the Holy Spirit will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall persevere to the end, and be kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

7. The Church
The Lord Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, which is composed of all true followers of Christ, and in Him is invested supremely all power for its government. Christians are to associate themselves with local churches; and to each church is given the authority to administer order, to carry out ministry, to worship, and to practice discipline.

8. Last Things
The bodies of humans after death return to dust, but their spirits return immediately to God—the righteous to rest with Him; the wicked to be reserved under darkness to the judgment. God in His own time and in His own way, will bring the world to its appropriate end. According to His promise, Jesus Christ will return personally and visibly in glory to the earth. At the last day, the bodies of all the dead, both just and unjust, will be raised. God has appointed a day, when He will judge the world by Jesus Christ, when all people shall receive according to their deeds; the wicked shall go into everlasting punishment; the righteous, into everlasting life.

I have read the above Statement of Faith and am in agreement with the same.

Print Name_______________________________________________________________

Signed: __________________________________________________Date__________
The Questions

On separate sheets of paper completely answer all the following questions. Please write your answers legibly and understandably.

1. Describe the ministry/church in which you are involved and the type of ministry you perform.

2. Give a statement of your doctrinal position, especially in areas not covered by The Stephen Olford Center at Union University Statement of Faith.

3. What previous ministerial training have you had?

4. In what manner or way do you feel that our institute training program can equip or enhance your ministry?

5. Describe what you believe is the function and role of preaching in the church and the world today? The answer to this question should be at least one half of a page long and include biblical references concerning the value, necessity, and purpose of preaching.

6. Please list and explain any additional information or reason why you should be awarded a grant to attend our institute program. Please demonstrate the need for financial assistance.

7. Describe your educational background and your ministry gifts that would enable you to teach what you learn at our Center to others.
Instructions to Applicant: Please complete the following section before distributing this form.

Your Name (please print): ________________________________________________________

Under the Federal Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974, students are entitled to review their records, including letters of reference. It is your option to waive your right to access to this recommendation or to decline to do so. Please mark the appropriate phrase below indicating your choice of option, and sign your name. By signing, you are also granting permission for representatives of the Stephen Olford Center at Union University to contact your reference directly concerning this recommendation.

☐ I waive my right to review of this recommendation.
☐ I do not waive my right to review of this application.

Applicant’s Name Print: ________________________________________________________

Applicant’s Signature: ___________________________________________ Date: ____________

Name of Reference (please print): ______________________________________________

The above named applicant has applied for a grant to attend some of the training institutes offered by The Stephen Olford Center at Union University in Memphis, Tennessee, and has given your name as a reference.

Please fill in the requested information as you feel qualified. Please use additional paper if needed.

This letter of reference will be treated in strict confidence by the Stephen Olford Center at Union University in considering the above named applicant for a grant.

Please do not return this form to the Applicant. Please return this completed form directly to:

The Stephen Olford Center at Union University
4000 Riverdale Road
Memphis, TN 38115
USA

Thank you for your part in this important phase of the applicant’s life.
1. How long have you known the applicant? __________

2. In what capacity and how well have you known the applicant? __________________________

3. What do you consider to be the applicant’s strong points/special abilities? ______________

4. What do you consider to be the applicant’s weaknesses or personality challenges? _________

5. Describe the applicant’s relationship with peers. ________________________________

6. Describe the applicant’s relationship with spouse and the opposite sex. ________________

7. Describe the applicant’s relationship and attitude to authority and leadership. ____________

8. What is your perception of the applicant’s commitment to Christ and Christian living?

9. Below are listed several characteristics that could affect the applicant’s success in ministry training and his/her subsequent career. Please evaluate the applicant by indicating your level of concern in each area. Put an “x” in the box that best fits your answer.

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<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Slightly disagree</th>
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<tr>
<td>A. Ability to accept criticism</td>
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<td>B. Academic aptitude</td>
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<td>C. Accountable</td>
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<td>D. Adaptability</td>
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<td>G. Cooperation with others</td>
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<td>I. Dependability</td>
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<td>J. Desire to grow</td>
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<td>Q. Personal appearance</td>
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<td>U. Writing ability</td>
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10. Please offer any additional comments on the applicant’s suitability for ministry training.
______________________________________________________________________________

11. What is your perception of the applicant’s call to Christian service? ________________
______________________________________________________________________________

12. In what way and to what extent is the church providing support and encouragement to the applicant? __________________________________________________________________________
______________________________________________________________________________

13. What degree of success in ministry training would you predict for the applicant?
   □ Unusually High □ Above Average □ Average □ Below Average

14. □ I recommend □ I do not recommend □ I recommend with some uncertainties (please explain).