

**Call for Proposals**

Pew Research Program

Union University

Fall 2025

Deadline for Proposals: September 24, 2025

**Statement of Purpose**

The Pew Research Program seeks to nourish Christian scholarship that will make a meaningful contribution to academic discussion. By “Christian scholarship” we mean scholarship which may have an overt Christian content, as well as scholarship which is intrinsically shaped by one’s faith and worldview. Typically, scholarship of this caliber would be publishable in refereed scholarly journals and by recognized academic presses or disseminated through performance or other refereed means appropriate to the academic discipline of the faculty member.

**Goals of the Pew Program**

1. To encourage Christian scholars at Union University to participate in academic discussions on critical topics in their disciplines, in other words, to help them gain a vision for the importance of producing high-quality Christian scholarship for scholarly audiences.
2. To help Union University develop permanent institutional cultures supportive of serious faculty scholarship.
3. To enable faculty members at Union University to produce first-order scholarship that brings Christian perspectives to academic discussions.
4. To link Union University faculty with senior scholars in sponsorship or mentoring relationships, creating enduring networks that can provide intellectual stimulation and personal encouragement.

**Eligibility**

Full time Union University faculty may apply. If a Union faculty member holds an administrative position but teaches 12 or more hours per year (e.g., an associate dean), he or she is also eligible. Previous winners of Pew grants are eligible, provided they have successfully completed and disseminated prior Pew research in accordance with the dissemination criteria detailed below.

**Research Committee**

The Research Committee oversees the awarding of research leaves and Pew Research Grants and arranging opportunities for Pew Grant recipients to disseminate their research on campus. The committee is composed of six Union University faculty representing Theology & Missions/Humanities/Social Sciences; STEM; Fine Arts; Business; Education & Human Studies; and Nursing or Pharmacy. Each of these must have experience in publishing or formally presenting research before an audience of peers and be actively engaged in research at present. In the event that a family member of a committee member presents a proposal for consideration, that committee member will step off the committee for the current year and be replaced by a faculty member chosen by the committee in consultation with the Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs.

From the pool of applicants, the Committee will select a maximum of three grant recipients, each to receive up to a $4,500 grant. The Committee will select each grant recipient primarily on the basis of the academic quality of the proposal, which includes the following:

 • sound reasoning,

 • a strong theoretical framework,

 • the ability to be researched in a timely fashion,

 • the promise of making a significant contribution to the field in question,

* a well-articulated account of the relationship between the proposal and Christian faith.

Research undertaken for the completion of a dissertation or thesis may be funded by other means at Union, so grants will not be awarded for that purpose. Current members of the Research Committee are not eligible to receive Pew grants.

**Internal Application Process**

Using the **Pew Research Proposal Form**, faculty members interested in applying for a Pew Research Grant must submit seven copies of a proposal containing the following information:

1. Cover sheet
2. Title of the project.
3. Statement of the end product(s) (book, chapter, article, play, musical composition, exhibit, or other dissemination means appropriate to your discipline).
4. A description of the project and its major goals. The description should begin with a statement of the specific research question or project/activity plan, depending upon the discipline. Special attention should be given to the theoretical framework upon which the research/project/activity will be based along with a brief examination of surrounding scholarly literature, stressing how the project qualifies, extends, or otherwise engages existing knowledge or practice.
5. An essay (500 - 1000 words) describing how the Christian faith relates to your understanding of your discipline and how it relates to this scholarly endeavor.
6. A time frame for the completion and dissemination of the project.
7. A brief budget. (For example, funds may be used for purchasing equipment, travel, conference attendance, etc. If requesting funds as a stipend, please justify the need for a stipend to complete the project.)
8. A current *curriculum vitae*.
9. Two letters of recommendation (one from outside the university) attesting to the worth of the project, the candidate’s scholarly competence, and his/her ability to complete the project with distinction in a timely fashion.
10. Letters of support from the candidate’s academic chair and dean stating their approval of the project, sharing any potential departmental/college/school support the candidate may receive if the Pew Grant is awarded for their proposal (e.g., course release time or allocation of professional development funds), and confirming their confidence in the candidate’s ability to complete the proposed project in a timely manner.

*Proposals should be submitted by the applicant as a PDF via email to the chair of the Research Committee.*

**Letters of Recommendation**

The application process for an individual faculty grant shall include letters of recommendation from two senior scholars attesting to the worth of the project, the candidate’s scholarly competence, and his/her ability to complete the project with distinction in a timely fashion. One of these scholars shall be from an external college or university, and one shall be from Union University, if a Union faculty member has the needed expertise in the specified field. The Union faculty member should serve informally as a mentor to the grantee in a manner that will contribute to the grantee’s accountability for the completion of the project. The letter of recommendation does not have to address matters of faith, though it may if the writer wishes to do so. Letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the chair of the Research Committee.

**Letters of Support**

The application process for an individual faculty grant shall include letters of support from the candidate’s Department Chair and Dean stating their approval of the project, sharing any potential departmental/college/school support the candidate may receive if the Pew Grant is awarded for their proposal (e.g., course release time or allocation of professional development funds) and confirming their confidence in the candidate’s ability to complete the proposed project in a timely manner. Letters of support should be sent directly to the chair of the Research Committee.

**Tentative Timeline for 2025-26 Pew Grants**

September 24, 2025 Completed applications and letters of recommendation to the chair of the Research Committee

Mid-October Research Committee meets to review the applications

October 27 Applicants notified of the committee’s decisions

2025-26 Recipients perform their research

April 2027 Pew Luncheon, with presentation of results

**Internal Support for Grant Recipients**

Union will render grant recipients who hold a nine-month contract a release from all professional duties during the summer for which the grant has been awarded.

**Dissemination of Research**

Grant recipients are expected to publish or present the results of their research in peer-reviewed forums. The recipient may request funding for all expenses directly involved in the presentation of his or her research at a scholarly conference in accordance with Union’s policies concerning travel and professional development funds. If guidance is needed for dissemination, participants may submit copies of the completed research to the external scholars who participated or to members of the Research Committee.

Grant recipients are also expected to present the results of their research to the Union community at a luncheon held in their honor during the spring following their award.

**Evaluation**

Each recipient is expected to submit to the Research Committee an update on his or her research before the next Pew grant application deadline. Since the project may yield an article or even a book, a synopsis of no more than 1,000 words is needed. The Committee wants to see that the research was successfully completed and that progress is being made toward dissemination. Although the Committee does not require involvement by the external scholars at this point, the recipient may wish to renew contact with those who provided recommendations in order to continue the dialogue and perhaps gain additional ideas and directions for thought.

In the unlikely event of a grant recipient not following through with the research funded by the grant, the recipient involved will be asked to explain all irregularities to the Committee. If not satisfied, the Committee may disqualify the person from future grants.

\*\*Individuals applying for the Pew Grant after receiving Pew funding previously will be asked to provide the committee with a brief synopsis of their former project as evidence of its completion. This document will be included in the current Pew Grant proposal.

**Conclusion**

The Research Committee sincerely hopes that this grant program will enhance the community of research scholarship at Union University. All questions and suggestions concerning the program should be directed to the current chair of the Research Committee.

**Overall Checklist:**

\_\_\_ Request for Letters of Recommendation

\_\_\_\_ Letters of Support

\_\_\_ Project description with major goals and brief examination of scholarly literature

\_\_\_ Essay on Christian faith and academic discipline

\_\_\_ Brief budget

\_\_\_ Plan for completion and dissemination

\_\_\_ Current *curriculum vitae*

\_\_\_ \*\*Synopsis of previous Pew Grant project if a previous grant recipient

The Center for Faculty Development may offer additional checklists and resources to assist in grant writing; see <http://www.uu.edu/centers/faculty/>. Also, successful applications can be reviewed at <http://www.uu.edu/programs/pew/past.cfm>.

**Pew Research Proposal Form**

Union University

**Cover Sheet**

Name(s) of Applicant(s):

Title of Proposed Project:

Primary Discipline: Secondary Discipline(s):

Has this proposal been submitted to another agency, publication, or program (including for the Union University Research/Study Leave)?

If so, which one(s)?

Location of proposed research:

Desired start date:

Recommending Scholars and their disciplines:

 External:

 Union:

In consultation together, we recommend the approval of the proposal as an acceptable project and affirm that the applicant has the professional wherewithal to accomplish the project satisfactorily.

Chair of your department \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Dean of your college/school: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*If the chair and/or dean do not recommend the proposal, the applicant should seek a conference to discuss the reasons.*

*Proposals should be submitted as a PDF via email to the chair of the Research Committee.*

**PEW RESEARCH PROPOSAL**

(Use the space necessary to present your proposal clearly to the committee

1. **Title of the project**.
2. **Statement of the end product(s)** (book, chapter, article, play composition, exhibit, or other dissemination means appropriate to your discipline).
3. **Explanation of the scholarly activity.**

(In this section, you make the case for the funding of your proposal. Begin with a statement of the specific research question or project/activity plan, depending upon the discipline. Present a clear, but concise, description of the project and its major goals. Special attention should be given to the theoretical framework upon which the research/project/activity will be based along with a brief examination of surrounding scholarly literature, stressing how the project qualifies, extends or otherwise engages existing knowledge or practice.)

**I. Statement of the scholarly activity.**

**II. Description of the activity and its goals.**

**III. Theoretical framework.**

**IV. Brief examination of scholarly literature or context of the activity within your discipline.**

**V. Connection to Ernest Boyer’s Model of Scholarship.**

1. **An essay (500 - 1000 words) describing how the Christian faith relates to your understanding of your discipline and how it relates to this scholarly endeavor.**
2. **A time frame for the completion and a plan for the dissemination of the project.**
3. **A brief budget** (For example, funds may be used for purchasing equipment, travel, conference attendance, etc. If requesting funds as a stipend, please justify the need for a stipend to complete the project.)
4. **A current *curriculum vitae*.**
5. **Two letters of recommendation should be submitted directly to chair of the Research Committee attesting to the worth of the project, the candidate’s scholarly competence, and his/her ability to complete the project with distinction in a timely fashion.**
6. **Two letters of support (from Department Chair and Dean) should be submitted directly to the chair of the Research Committee stating their approval of the proposed project, sharing any potential departmental/college/school support the candidate may receive if the Pew Grant is awarded for their proposal (e.g., course release time or allocation of professional development funds) and confirming their confidence in the candidate’s ability to complete the proposed project in a timely manner.**

**Pew Research Grant**

***Grant Review Rubric***

*Please rate each item below on a scale of 1-5 with 1 representing needs work, 3 representing adequate and 5 representing excellent. Circle the appropriate rating.*

This proposal explains how it engages issues of faith, indicating how 1 2 3 4 5

the research project directly addresses Christian faith or the role

research plays in the work of a Christian scholar.

This proposal has a concrete, specific guiding question or thesis. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal shows sound reasoning. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal has a strong theoretical framework. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal has the ability to be researched in timely fashion. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal clearly describes the project with stated goals and

processes for meeting those goals. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal exhibits an appropriate use of funds as necessary for 1 2 3 4 5

study/project completion such as purchase of equipment, conference

attendance, travel, supplement/replace pay for additional teaching

(overload), etc.

This proposal has a clear statement of its end product. 1 2 3 4 5

This proposal demonstrates the promise of making a contribution 1 2 3 4 5

to the field in question.

This proposal has been supported through letters of recommendation 1 2 3 4 5

attesting to the worth of the project, the candidate’s scholarly

competence, and his/her ability to complete the project with

distinction in a timely fashion.

This proposal has been supported through letters of support 1 2 3 4 5

from the candidate’s Department Chair and Dean signifying their approval
of the project, sharing information regarding institutional support, and
confidence in the proposed project timeline.

Proposal Items Checklist

* Cover sheet
* Title
* Project description with major goals and brief examination of scholarly literature
* Essay on Christian faith and academic discipline
* Statement of end product
* Brief budget
* Plan for completion and dissemination
* Current *curriculum vitae*
* Two letters of recommendation
* Two letters of support
* Synopsis of previously completed Pew Grant funded project (if previously awarded)