

HONORARY DOCTORATE DEGREE AWARD

APPLICATION PACKET

BETHEL CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY
(A Global Christian Online University)



CHARTERED BY:
KINGSWAY FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL
DES MOINES, IOWA, USA.

Bethel Christian University
Is incorporated in the State of Kansas, as a Non-Profit 501 (c) (3)
Religious Educational Organization.

Bethel Christian University
P. O. BOX 4086,
TOPEKA KS. 66604, USA.
TEL : 1 (785) 414-8600

E-mail : info@bcuks.org

Website: www.bcuks.org

(All correspondence by E-mail OR Postal address only)

HONORARY DEGREE PROGRAMS

Bethel Christian University offers honorary degrees to individuals who have distinguished themselves in ministry and in their communities. These degrees are not earned through academic coursework, they are deserved, based on a proven record of impact, dedication, and outstanding service.

Our honorary degrees recognize eminent Christian leaders who have meaningfully contributed to the growth and development of churches, ministries, communities, the nation, and the global advancement of the Gospel. This honor is reserved for those who do not require an earned degree to prepare for ministry, because their lives, service, and accomplishments already demonstrate excellence and influence.

If you are a Pastor, Evangelist, Prophet, Missionary, Apostle, Teacher of the Word, or the leader of an active Christian ministry, Bethel Christian University may consider you for an Honorary Doctorate Degree, based on the principle of *1 Timothy 5:17*, if you meet the following eligibility criteria. A non-refundable administrative processing fee of \$100.00 must accompany the application.

Eligibility Criteria for an Honorary Doctorate Degree

Demonstrated Ministry Impact

Applicants must show substantial, measurable contribution in at least one of the following:

1. Church planting, leadership, or expansion
2. Significant evangelistic or missionary work
3. Documented community development or transformation
4. Spiritual leadership that has influenced groups, denominations, or networks

Minimum Years of Service

A minimum of:

1. **10 years** of continuous, active ministry leadership, or
2. **15 years** of combined ministry service in various roles

Proven Christian Character

Applicants must demonstrate:

1. A life consistent with biblical values
2. A reputation for integrity and godly leadership
3. Endorsements or testimonials from credible ministry leaders

Leadership Position

The candidate must currently hold or have held a recognized leadership office such as:

1. Senior Pastor
2. Founder/Overseer of a ministry or church network
3. Missionary leader with long-term field experience
4. Christian educator or theological instructor with proven influence

Documented Achievements

The applicant must provide evidence of accomplishments such as:

1. Publications, sermons, or teachings with regional or global impact
2. Community programs, humanitarian work, or social initiatives
3. Missions, media, or outreach projects benefiting the body of Christ.

Good Standing Within the Christian Community

Applicants must be:

1. In good doctrinal and moral standing
2. Free from unresolved disciplinary actions or controversies
3. Affirmed by peers, mentors, or denominational leaders.

Application & Verification

Applicants must submit:

1. A completed application form
2. A ministry résumé or portfolio
3. Three to five letters of recommendation
4. Verification of service, achievements, and leadership roles

Administrative Processing Fee

An administrative processing fee must accompany the application.

1. This fee is required to begin the review, verification, and evaluation process.
2. Applications submitted without the required processing fee will not be reviewed.

Basic Eligibility Requirements for Applicants

1. Be a Born-Again Christian.
2. Be at least 40 years old.
3. Have a minimum of 10 years of active ministry experience (full-time or part-time).
4. Provide proof of ministerial credentials, confirming that you are a licensed and ordained minister of the Gospel.
5. Submit a typed 1–2-page summary describing your Christian work, ministry involvement, and leadership experience.
6. Secure three (3) endorsements:
 1. One from your Senior Pastor,
 2. One from a licensed or ordained minister, and
 3. One from a respected Christian leader (e.g., ministry supervisor, elder, chaplain, or denominational leader) who knows you and your ministry.
7. Each nominee is encouraged to sow a seed of not less than \$1,000.00 or more as a faith-filled investment into the continuing vision, growth, and Kingdom expansion of Bethel Christian University.

Endorsement Letters Requirements

Each applicant must submit three (3) written endorsement letters as outlined in the eligibility requirements. Endorsers should follow the guidelines below:

1. All endorsement letters should be typed, preferably on official letterhead.
2. Each letter must include the endorser's full name, title, ministry position, and contact information.
3. Each endorser should describe their relationship to the nominee and how long they have known them.
4. Letters must provide an honest assessment of the nominee's Christian character, integrity, ministry involvement, and leadership qualities.
5. Letters must be signed and dated by the endorser.

Submission Instructions

Nominees should ask their endorsers to write and forward their recommendation letters directly to:

Honorary Degree Committees:

Bethel Christian University

P. O. Box 4086

Topeka, KS 66604

USA.

AREAS OF AWARD

Group one:

1. Doctor of Divinity (D.D)
2. Doctor of Evangelism (D.E)
3. Doctor of Christian Mission (C.M.D)
4. Doctor of Sacred Music (S.M.D)

Awarded to individuals with spiritual vision and leadership inspired by the Holy Spirit as a Religious or Sacred degree.

Group Two:

1. Doctor of Letters (D. Litt.)
2. Doctor of Humanity (H.D)
3. Doctor of Sacred Music (S.M.D)
4. Doctor of Sacred Literature (S.L.D.)

Recognizing those who have made significant contributions to Christian education, literature, and community development.

GRADUATION DONATION

1. A non-refundable administrative processing fee of \$100.00 must accompany the application: = \$100.00
2. Graduation Expenses (Donation) to cover: = \$1,000.00 or more.
 - a. Registration
 - b. Documentation and Processing
 - c. Certificate Holder
 - d. Other miscellaneous Expenses
3. All travel made by Bethel Christian University staff to your school, church, or ministry—whether for training, consultation, advisement, graduation ceremonies, public presentation of degrees, or other special events—will be scheduled as time permits. All travel-related expenses, including transportation, food, lodging, and any other associated costs, must be covered and paid by the host minister or the honoree.

Required Application Documents:

All applicants must submit the following items to the Office of Bethel Christian University:

1. Completed Application Form:

The enclosed Honorary Doctorate Application Form must be fully completed and signed.

2. Detailed Life Biography (Ministry Résumé)

Include your personal background, ministry history, leadership roles, achievements, and community impact.

3. Copies of Educational Credentials

Submit photocopies of all certificates, diplomas, degrees, and any special recognition awards related to your education or ministry work.

4. Ministerial Credentials

Provide copies of your current license and/or ordination certificates (if applicable).

5. Two Passport-Size Photographs:

6. Three Recommendation Letters:

Nominees must provide:

1. Two completed Recommendation Forms from established Pastors, Missionaries, or Christian Leaders who can verify the accuracy of your claims.
2. One additional formal recommendation letter written by either your Pastor or a ministry colleague. This letter should clearly explain why they believe you are a strong and deserving nominee for the Honorary Doctorate.

Review and Approval Process:

Upon receiving and reviewing all required documents, **Bethel Christian University staff** will proceed as follows:

1. Request for Additional Information

The University reserves the right to ask the applicant to provide additional documents, clarification, or verification as needed to complete the review process.

2. Approval Notification

Once the application is reviewed and all requirements are satisfactorily met, an official approval letter will be issued to the applicant.

3. **Honorary Degree Donation Requirements**

1. All donations must be submitted in advance before the honorary degree ceremony.
2. Donations may be made through:
 - a) **Check** made payable to *Bethel Christian University*
 - b) **CashApp** (information provided upon request)
 - c) **Zelle** (information provided upon request)
 - d) **Direct bank transfer** (details provided upon request)

4. **Scheduling of the Honorary Degree Presentation**

1. Due to the significance and dignity of this event, the Board of Directors must -approve the date and location of the public presentation.
2. It is strongly recommended that the presentation be conducted during the University's official graduation ceremony, or at another special location approved by the Board.

5. **Payment of All Costs and Fees:**

6. All required costs and fees associated with the honorary degree must be paid in full prior to the scheduled presentation date.

7. **Academic Regalia (Gown, Hood, Cap) Options**

1. Applicants wishing to purchase a gown, hood, or cap may contact the Office of the Registrar for pricing and ordering information.
2. Specially tailored and custom-designed academic regalia are available for an additional fee.

Authorized Representation for Award Ceremonies

Bethel Christian University recognizes that, on certain occasions, an honorary degree or special award may need to be presented outside of the University's primary ceremony. In such cases, the University may permit an approved representative, or an appointed or recommended qualified individual, to officiate and conduct the award presentation on behalf of the institution.

Such representation must:

1. Be formally authorized in writing by Bethel Christian University.
2. Be a qualified minister, academic leader, or respected Christian official capable of upholding the dignity of the ceremony.
3. Conduct the presentation in accordance with the University's standards, protocols, and ceremonial guidelines.

No award may be presented without prior approval from the Office of the President or the Board of Directors.

Waiver of Public or Formal Award Ceremony

If it is the wish of the awardee not to participate in a public or formal award ceremony, the individual must submit a written request to Bethel Christian University stating this preference. Upon receipt and review of the request, the University will issue an official letter of consent, confirming approval for the award to be granted without a ceremony.

This ensures that the process remains properly documented, dignified, and consistent with the University's standards and procedures.

SAMPLE OF CHRISTIAN MINISTRY RESUME

NB: Please write a comprehensive detailed Christian Resume (in Essay format) of not less than 1,500 words (three pages) covering the following areas:

PERSONAL INFORMATION

John Bull Akins
5010 SW 20TH Terrace,
TOPEKA, KS. 66604.

EDUCATION

1978 - 1981 BA, Theology from Faith Bible College. Texas.
1982 - 1986 completed correspondence courses from Kingsway College. Iowa.
(If Transcripts are not available – list courses completed, with seminars
And workshops that apply to the Ministry)

CREDENTIALS/CERTIFICATES

1975 - 1978 Licensed by Grace Bible Church, Kansas. (Church recognition)
1978 - 1990 Licensed by Kingsway Fellowship Int'l. Iowa, (Int'l. recognition)

TEACHING MINISTRY

1973 - 1975 Sunday School Teacher, Adult class, Faith Bible Church, Kansas
(1 hour weekly).
1975 - 1978 Teaches Major Prophets, Grace Bible Institute, Kansas (1 hour 18 weeks= 1
semester)
1977 - 1978 Sunday school Superintendent, Grace Bible Church, Kansas, (2 hours a week)

CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES

1976 - 1978 Evangelism Director
1976 - 1980 Director of Missions
1983 -1986 President of Men's or Women's ministry

ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

1973 - 1975 Part t-times Church Administrator, Faith Bible Church, Kansas.
(16 hours a week)

1975 - 1978 Church Secretary, Grace Bible Church, Kansas. (2 hours a week)

PREACHING MINISTRY

1973 - 1975 Fill in for Pastor when away, Grace Bible Church, Kansas.

1975 - 1978 Wednesday night Services, Grace Bible Church, Kansas.

PASTORAL MINISTRY

1974 - 1975 Home Bible Study with couples in the neighborhood (1 hour weekly)

1975 - 1976 Prison Ministry, County Jail, Kansas (2 hours weekly)

1975 - 1978 Church Elder, Grace Bible Church. Kansas. (Weekly services)

1976 - 1978 Hospital Ministry, Grace Bible Church, Kansas. (4 hours weekly)

1978 - 1982 Pastor of Fellowship of Christ Church, Iowa.

1982 - Date Senior Pastor Hope Christian Center, New York.

SEMINARS/CONFERENCES

1978 - Church growth seminar – 20 hours

1982 - Pastor's leadership conference – 40 hours

SERVED ON BOARD

1975 - 1978 Hope Ministers Fellowship. (2 hours per month for four years)

NB: Please attach documents to prove your claims.

(All correspondence by email and postal address only)