**Stewardship of Life Institute Application**

**Sharron Blezard Innovation Fellowship**

**Description:**

***The Rev. Sharron Blezard was a beloved writer for SOLI for close to a decade. In 2021, Sharron entered into the church triumphant after her journey through metastatic cancer. You can learn more about her ministry*** [***here***](https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2021/07/in-memoriam/)***.***

***The Sharron Blezard Innovation Fellowship grants up to $40,000.00 for persons in ELCA ministries who share a passion for stewardship of time, talent, and material/financial resources. Additionally, recipients of this fellowship will be able to implement a creative new resource for ministry that encourages people to embrace their role of steward in creation. Examples of this new resource could include podcasts, YouTube channels, innovation within church building infrastructure, or the creation of a*** [***beloved community***](https://www.gse.harvard.edu/news/19/01/achieving-kings-beloved-community#:~:text=Beloved%20community%3A%20a%20community%20in,was%2C%20in%20fact%2C%20possible.) ***within a ministry context. Special consideration will be given to historically marginalized communities and new ministry startups. This grant may be renewable pending review. For more information about this fellowship opportunity, please contact SOLI Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann at*** ***mzimmann@uls.edu******.***

Thank you for your interest in applying for the SOLI Innovation Fellowship in memory of the [Rev. Sharron Blezard](https://www.stewardshipoflife.org/2021/07/remembering-solis-writer-sharron-r-blezard-3/).

The application is due no later than August 1st of each year.

1. Complete the application form below using a computer word-processing program. Save your application in RTF (Rich Text Format) using the following format:

**Organization.ProjectName.APP.RTF**

1. Send your completed application as an attachment to an email to SOLI’s executive director, Rev. Dr. Martin Otto-Zimmann, at: mzimmann@uls.edu

**APPLICATION FORM**

**Sponsoring organization:**

**Sponsoring organization/person IRS tax number (EIN) or Social Security Number:**

**Project name:**

**Primary contact name:**

**Primary contact email address:**

**Primary contact telephone number(s):**

**Primary contact surface address:**

**If your organization has previously applied for this fellowship, please provide the application date(s):**

**If your organization has previously received this fellowship, please provide the grant(s) date(s):**

**Total dollar amount you are requesting from SOLI:**

**Applicants are encouraged to think about these criteria when designing their projects:**

1. **Creativity: sharing the gospel of stewardship in new and different ways.**
2. **Inclusivity: this project should reach a diverse audience of ages and identities**
3. **Building connections: stewardship is primarily about living out a relationship with God & neighbor.**
4. **Spiritual growth and formation: people are invited to grow through the experience.**

**Please provide answers to the following:**

1. **Describe your project.**
2. **What do you hope to learn about yourself and those you accompany through this project?**
3. **What milestones do you hope to see in this journey?**
4. **What are the resources you bring to the table? What will be your biggest challenges?**
5. **How will you use the funds we provide? Where do you find support? Please share your ideas.**
6. **Who at your ministry site will hold you accountable in this project? How can SOLI walk with you in this journey?**
7. **How will you be able to share results of your work and whether or not your vision for ministry has become reality?**

***Upon review of this application, members of the SOLI board will contact you for further conversation regarding the project before a recommendation is brought to the board.***