

Essay Question for SIM Scholarships

This year's essay question is focused on leadership and vision for leadership. We are inviting everyone, current and new applicants, to submit an essay this year with the thought that your submission might be published in SIM's journal, *Future of the Faith*, and on our website.

The late Dr. Edwin Friedman, family therapist and rabbi, recalls that phone calls and letters to him multiplied after his initial writing, *Generation to Generation*. Almost all of them were from a position of defensiveness from leaders in the face of complaints and chaos in their respective systems. Finally, he said, "I stopped listening to the content of everyone's complaints and irrespective of their location or their problems or the nature of their institution, began saying the exact same thing to everyone, 'You have to get up before your people and give them an "I have a Dream" speech.'"

What is your "*I Have a Dream*" speech or sermon? Offer your articulation of a dream you hold for the life of the church and/or some aspect of the future of the faith. Where do you discern the active invitation of the Holy Spirit to Episcopalians? What compels the ministry for which you are preparing? What needs to be celebrated and amplified and what challenges in the church and larger culture need to be addressed? Remember this is an exhortation crafted to inspire and motivate your audience to join with you in making this vision a reality.