'Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love.' (I John 4.8) This verse from the Johannine epistles is one of the best known and loved in the New Testament. Christians readily identify God's nature as love, and link the knowledge of God to love of God and neighbor. Yet Christianity has not always placed love in the center of its theology, nor acted like a community of love. Like other religions in the world, Christianity has been the source of conflict and rancor, as well as peace and sacrificial love. Vital to our faith and to our world is the recovery of love as the centerpiece of Christianity and the mainspring of the world’s religions. The Yoder Scholarship seeks to explore the recognition of a God of Love in Christianity and all religions, as an appropriate philosophical center for all the world’s religions and peoples.

The Yoder Scholarship invites essays exploring the centrality of love in Christian doctrine, scripture, creeds, liturgy, worship, music, and practice. Invited too are essays exploring these questions with respect to other world religions. Papers written in fields of Bible, pastoral theology, theology, music, liturgy, homiletics, and history may be submitted for consideration. Independent study papers as well as theses are welcome on this theme.

An announcement inviting submissions is made each Fall. Submissions for the Yoder Scholarship must be made to the Center for Anglican Communion Studies early in the Spring Semester by the established deadline. Submissions are reviewed and judged by a panel of faculty members. The winner is announced in the Spring and receives an award of at least $1,000.