GUIDELINES FOR THE WOODS FELLOWSHIP

The Granville Cecil Woods, Jr. Fellowship at Virginia Theological Seminary was established in 1982, shortly after Dean Woods resigned as Dean after serving thirteen years in that position. Several alumni/ae and friends thought that an appropriate way to honor Dean Woods and his achievements as Dean, especially his achievements in strengthening the faculty and the curriculum and in developing the Seminary’s relationship with the Washington Theological Consortium, would be to establish in his name a fellowship for graduate academic study. A fund-raising effort was begun and the first fellowship was awarded in the fall of 1985. Fellowships are given, for periods of one to two months, for independent study and writing done in residence at Virginia Seminary. Guidelines for the awards are listed below.

1. Persons who hold a theological degree and are engaged full time in professional religious activities will be eligible to apply for a Woods Fellowship. Ordination is not necessary.

2. Fellowships may be awarded to persons of any Christian tradition who can demonstrate previous and ongoing scholarly interest and involvement in one of the areas of special interest to the Very Reverend G. Cecil Woods, Jr., former dean of Virginia Seminary. This would include Patristics, Liturgics, Scripture, Church and Society, and Pastoral Theology. Previous writings in that area would be highly desirable.

3. Normally one fellowship will be awarded each academic year. If sufficient funds should be available, a second or third award may be made in a given year. Awards will be given for a period on one to two months, depending on both the desires of the applicant and the availability of funds and housing. Fellows should plan to be in residence for the agreed-upon period of time, which must be within the regular academic terms. The award will be sufficient to cover the cost of room and board, plus travel to and from home within the continental United States. Fellows will have full library privileges and will be assigned a study carrel in the library. If spouses accompany the fellow, there will be no charge for lodging, but the fellow will be responsible for the spouses’ meals and travel.

4. Application is to be made by letter to the Dean. The letter should state the nature and goal of the independent study project and the time the applicant would plan to be in residence. Evidence of the applicant’s previous interest in the topic and of any previous scholarly activity related to the topic should be included. A transcript of all post-graduate academic work and one letter of recommendation should also be submitted. Applications should be received by February 1 for the following academic year, regardless of the time period within that academic year the applicant plans to be in residence.

5. A short report at the conclusion of the project must be submitted to the Dean.

6. Decisions about the fellowship awards will be made by a committee composed of the Dean, the Associate Dean for Academic Affairs, and other faculty members when appropriate.