

Young Black Scholarship Program Participants: Bios

The Young Black Scholarship Program project, as part of the church's commitment to the United Nations' International Decade for People of African Descent, started on March 1, 2021. Six young Black participants affiliated with communities of faith in the United Church will be researching various aspects of Black experiences in Canadian churches as part of a learning community. The research part of the project will run from March to June, 2021. Then, from September to December, communities of faith in the United Church are welcome to host one-hour interactive online presentations of findings from their research.

Please meet the project participants:



Hello, I'm Jonisha Lewinson, and I grew up in North Bramalea United Church after moving to Canada with my family when I was younger. I am currently a second-year student at Sheridan College studying Creative Writing and Publishing, and I love it! I also enjoy digital drawing, singing, and learning Japanese.

My name is Brianna Lane, and I am a member of Trinity United Church in Cobourg, Ontario. I am currently a fourth-year student studying Environmental Biology at the University of Toronto. I enjoy hiking, watching movies, and learning languages. I look forward to gaining a deeper understanding of historical research, connecting with the Black Christian community, and helping to share this narrative!



I am Noah Janosch Brown. I first became acquainted with the United Church community when the Roncesvalles United Church opened their doors for me to produce artworks in their basement. The Rev. Hines and I have since become close friends. I moved to New York to study fine art at the Cooper Union until the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. I am presently working on a pop album with an old high school friend. Currently, my favourite hobbies are writing pop songs and researching human social behaviours.

Hi. I'm Sifa Zahinda. I have been attending Emmanuel United Church. I am currently studying at Algonquin College as a police foundation student. I like cooking and baking, playing my guitar, hiking, dancing, and playing soccer and basketball.



My name is Amelia Brohman and I am a member of Emmanuel United Church in Ottawa, Ontario. I am a correctional officer in Ottawa for three years now. My favourite hobbies include watching reality TV and hanging out with friends/loved ones over good drinks and food.

I am Andrew Johnson. I started my involvement with the Winchester United Pastoral Charge during my childhood. From there, I took interest in studying Theatre Arts, which led to completing studies in Media and Communications and TV Broadcasting. I've continued to use my creative skills, performance arts abilities, and psychologically minded work throughout my education and career. I take interest in the entertainment field, mental health advocacy, and social issues.

