

Call for Submissions
The Theology of Prince
University of Minnesota and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities 2017
November 11, 2017

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities (United) and University of Minnesota (UM) invites artists, poets, essayists, and theologians to submit their work on The Theology of Prince (and the Artist formerly known as Prince).

Prince Rogers Nelson (June 7, 1958 – April 21, 2016), a Minnesota native and resident, was an intergenerational and international musical, fashion, and cinematic artist most known for his funky dance rhythms and explicit sexuality, but even though he sold more than 100 million records and won seven Grammy awards, little is known about the impact of religion and spirituality on his music and artistic expression, and even less is known about how his art strove to re-shape cultural dimensions of race, gender, sexuality, morality, and religious experience. Through this Call for Submissions on The Theology of Prince, United and UM will curate and publish art, poems, essays, and academic papers from a variety of religious, spiritual, and theological perspectives.

Submissions can be offered by people from a variety of backgrounds, including artists, poets, essayists and academics in religion, spirituality, and theology programs, masters and doctoral level religion, spirituality, and theology students, pre-seminary students, and people without any theological, spiritual, or religious affiliations. We especially invite those from Seventh-Day Adventist or Jehovah's Witnesses background, two of Prince's spiritually formative religious traditions, to submit work.

Each submission must be accompanied by an abstract of 150-200 words, the author's or authors' biography/biographies, email address(es) and phone number(s). **NO NOT PUT IDENTIFYING INFORMATION ON YOUR ACTUAL SUBMISSION** so that your submission may be judged anonymously. *Essayists, artists, and academics have different submission guidelines that are outlined below.*

A \$500 prize will be awarded to one entry in each category, and winners will be published on **The Canvas**, United's digital publishing platform. In addition, writers, scholars, and artists who submit excellent work may be invited to present at the University of Minnesota's **Prince from MPLS Conference**, April 16-18, 2018, and/or be published in a journal or edited volume book.

Essayists

Writers are invited to submit essays on the question, "How has Prince's music impacted your spirituality?" Please limit your submission to no more than 1,000 words, double spaced.

Poems

Poets may submit one poem, maximum of 500 words, on Prince and spirituality.

Videos

Artists may submit videos up to three minutes in length and shorter on Prince and spirituality. Videos may be music (e.g. covers or original songs), spoken word performances, animation, tributes, mash-ups, short films, or any combination.

Visual Art

Artists must submit visual art by uploading a digital file of their work (ie jpeg, png, pdf, tiff, etc).

Academics (including researchers, professors, and doctoral students)

Academics are invited to submit one academic journal article up to 15 pages (including footnotes), double spaced, Chicago Style. Selected entries will be invited to present their papers at the University of Minnesota's Prince from MPLS Conference in April 2018. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Belief in reincarnation as it relates to loss, grief, depression, and resilience
- Prince's music in liturgical dance
- Soteriology and the creation of Paisley Park as a utopia
- Climate change and The Book of Revelation
- Did Prince practice Hindu trantric sex?
- Was Prince one of the best-selling gospel artists of all times?
- Evangelism
- Philanthropy
- Religious devotion and the prohibition of medical intervention
- Eschatology
- The survival of existential threat

Deadline

The deadline for all submissions is February 15, 2018. To submit your abstract, biography, and work, go to unitedseminary.edu/prince. Submit no later than 11:59 p.m. on February 15, 2018. **The deadline for UM's Prince from MPLS has closed EXCEPT for religious and theological submissions that have re-opened in collaboration with United.**

Presentations

Selected artists and writers may be invited to present their work at UM's **Prince from MLPS** conference in April, 2018.

Copyright Considerations

United will be respectful of Prince's original creative genius, therefore we will not publish articles and essays that infringe on Prince's copyrights and trademarks. Refrain from writing entire song lyrics or long pieces of dialogue in your article or essay. For additional guidance, read <https://janefriedman.com/the-fair-use-doctrine/>

Permission

By submitting, you grant United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities permission to publish your work on **The Canvas**, United's digital publishing platform, and to use it in other media, including but not limited to, print, video, and social media.

Questions

Questions about The Theology of Prince Call for Papers should be directed to Dr. Pamela Ayo Yetunde at payetunde@unitedseminary.edu. Write ToP in your subject line.

About University of Minnesota

The University of Minnesota (University), founded in the belief that all people are enriched by understanding, is dedicated to the advancement of learning and the search for truth; to the sharing of this knowledge through education for a diverse community; and to the application of this knowledge to benefit the people of the state, the nation, and the world. The University's mission carried out on multiple campuses and throughout the state, is threefold:

- Research and Discovery
- Teaching and Learning
- Outreach and Public Service

In all of its activities, the University strives to sustain an open exchange of ideas in an environment that:

- embodies the values of academic freedom, responsibility, integrity, and cooperation;
- provides an atmosphere of mutual respect, free from racism, sexism, and other forms of prejudice and intolerance;
- assists individuals, institutions, and communities in responding to a continuously changing world;
- is conscious of and responsive to the needs of the many communities it is committed to serving;
- creates and supports partnerships within the University, with other educational systems and institutions, and with communities to achieve common goals; and
- inspires, sets high expectations for, and empowers the individuals within its community.

About United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

When you come to United, you join a community that is intentionally open, socially aware, and theologically adventurous. Our passion is equipping leaders to make real, lasting change in the world—whether your vocation is in faith leadership, non-profit leadership, academia, the arts, activism, or social entrepreneurship.

Founded as a welcoming, ecumenical school that embraces all denominations and faith traditions, United has been on the cutting edge of progressive theological thought leadership since it was established in 1962. Today, United continues to train leaders who dismantle systems of oppression, explore multifaith spirituality, and push the boundaries of knowledge. <https://www.unitedseminary.edu/about-us/>