

Request for Mission Funding / Annual Mission Evaluation Form Funding Year: 2019

Part I. Personal Information

Name of Missionary or Mission Agency: Jeff Banks, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

If you are an individual, please provide names of your spouse and children: Anna Banks
(who is pregnant with our daughter, due 9/6/19)

E-mail address: jeffrey.banks@intervarsity.org

Is e-mail your preferred method of communication? **Yes** No

Link to your website (if available): <http://jeffwbanks.com>

Your Personal Mailing Address (*Please list exactly as it should appear on envelope*)

Jeff Banks
20 Child St. Apt 1712
Cambridge, MA 02141

Your Personal Telephone Numbers (*Please include all area & country codes*)

Home: N/A

Office: N/A

Mobile: (847) 323-5468

Name of local or indigenous church you are currently attending: Church of the Cross,
Boston

Please e-mail us a current photo of your family or mission agency. Please also add FPCE to
your e-newsletter or mailings so that we can receive regular updates concerning your
ministry. Send photos & e-newsletters to: klevander@firstpresevanston.org

Do you grant us permission to post information, photos, and updates about your ministry to
our church website?

Yes, without any restrictions

Yes, with restrictions. Please specify:

No

First Family, the monthly FPCE newsletter, is available in PDF format for free on our
website. We are willing to send it to you via regular mail, if you prefer. We will use the
personal address you listed above, unless otherwise noted.

Yes, please send me *First Family* via regular mail.

No, I prefer to access it on the FPCE website.

Part II. Ministry Information

Are you a recognized mission of PC(USA)? Yes No

In one sentence, what is your mission statement? My mission is to cultivate multi-ethnic communities of graduate students and faculty at Harvard who seek Jesus and make him known on campus.

The following list presents the strategic focus areas of missions at FPCE. Please describe the involvement your ministry has in each of these areas and indicate the percentage of your ministry that is focused on these areas.

1. Justice Ministry-Ministry to/with the poor & oppressed, including widows & orphans; Health ministry

15 %

At first glance, it might seem like working with Harvard graduate students is the opposite of working with those who are most vulnerable and oppressed in society. After all, these are the future leaders of the world who have so many opportunities ahead.

Nevertheless, when you get to know students, you discover so much beneath the surface. Daphnee, one of the students who participates in my fellowship group at Harvard's school of Education, is a single mother who struggles to pay for childcare during her studies. Other students come from less privileged backgrounds and, like Marissa, another of my students, is grateful when I can provide them with a meal each week.

Although I do work directly with these economically disadvantaged students—as well as with other students who have faced gender and racial marginalization in their lives—much of my justice work centers around teaching students to care about the poor and oppressed so much that they will want to work for their flourishing after graduation. The temptation at Harvard is to graduate and get a job on Wall Street or in academia; my goal is to cast a vision for a different way of life, one that centers on following God's call to serve those who are in need.

2. Unreached people

35 %

It is not an exaggeration to say that graduate students at Harvard are an unreached group. I work with students every year who have never truly been exposed to the Christian faith. (I know, because I was once one of them.) For the past two years I have gotten to know Anna, a PhD student in music who is from Canada. While studying the Gospel According to Mark with her, I learned that she had no basic knowledge of the Bible. She asked questions such as, "Who is this Isaiah mentioned in Mark 1:2?" and "Why is Jesus hanging around in the synagogues?" She didn't know that Isaiah is a prophet from the Old Testament or that Jesus was Jewish! Most churchgoers assume that people who grow up in the West have a basic knowledge of the Bible, but it's not true anymore.

In addition to students from the U.S. or Canada who are unreached, there are also tons of international students who come every year to Harvard's graduate schools. Those who come from countries where it is difficult to hear the message of the Gospel arrive at Harvard

curious to know more. Su, a graduate student in anthropology from China, was one such student. She had never heard the Gospel, and then she became a Christian when she was in the US studying at Harvard! I interact with many different international students, and some, like Su, have never been reached before.

My mission is to help students know Jesus and make him known on campus. Reaching out to the unreached students is a huge part of that. The specific activities we do each year to reach out to these students changes, but our heart to reach students never changes. The past two years I have hosted an investigatory Bible study in which non-Christian students are invited to get to know Jesus through Scripture. Next year I am brainstorming with my student leaders other ways to creatively reach the unreached, including having open forums where students can come and ask any questions that they want about the Christian faith. Because of our context in a university, groups or events that invite question-asking and learning tend to work best.

3. Training of leaders

50 %

The main part of my ministry is training students to lead, mentor, and share the gospel with their fellow students. InterVarsity is a movement on university campuses that believes that God is at work among students, and we are there as campus ministers to partner with God and students in this work.

As part of my mission to cultivate multi-ethnic communities of students who seek Jesus on campus, I identify student leaders early on in the year and then spend the rest of the year teaching, counseling, mentoring, and training them in Christian discipleship and leadership.

One of the most rewarding parts of my ministry is seeing these student leaders flourish in this role. Monica, a PhD student in health policy who is one of the leaders of the PhD fellowship group, is one such person. Last year when I got to know her, she was quite shy and wanted to do the behind-the-scenes work but not lead up front. She wrote emails, organized spreadsheets, and arranged food for the meetings. Although these were all essential parts of ministry, it was so encouraging for me to see her slowly grow in confidence over this past year, such that now she moderates panels at our large group gatherings, prays in group settings, and serves as an MC during many meetings.

In training these student leaders, my goal is to inspire them to be passionate about sharing the good news of Jesus with their fellow students and also to love God's kingdom more than buying into the success-obsessed culture of Harvard. Training them to love that kingdom means helping them learn to serve others, especially the vulnerable and marginalized. It also means training them to live in a multi-ethnic community of faith.

I believe strongly that God's kingdom is for all people, and that God calls us to lean into the vision of John that before the throne of God there will be a great multitude praising the Lord from every nation, tribe, people and language (Revelation 7:9). The students with whom I work come from many nations, tribes, people, and languages, and I strive to instill in student leaders a respect for the cultural diversity in which we can worship God. This is hard work, since many students come from communities where other Christians think and act and worship as they do. Led by the Holy Spirit, though, we have come together as the one body of Christ to pray, study, and worship from our many different traditions. In doing so, we provide a witness to the university, which values diversity but often doesn't know how to create unity amid diversity. By God's grace, we do.

4. Other, please describe:

_____ %

Please elaborate on the following topics. Or, feel free to attach a report that addresses the questions below.

What are the core values of your ministry?

Community: For me, it all starts with community. I came to faith in Jesus as a young adult when I stumbled upon a community of Christians who loved me well. Amid all my question-asking and seeking, I kept coming back to the fact that there were people in the world who loved me well. The foundation of all the ministry that I do is community, in particular one that is radically welcoming of all people, wherever they are on the faith spectrum. Because graduate students can be so easily isolated in labs or the library, community is what they want above everything else.

Relational Evangelism: God has called me to Harvard so that I might make known the abundant life that is to be found in Jesus. As I wrote about above, making known this abundant life starts in community, with relationships. At the beginning of each academic year, I get to know as many students as I can, especially those who are seeking spiritual truth or asking questions about Christianity. Some of those, like Yingxue, a master's student studying art history, have no exposure to Christianity. Others of those, like Jailyn, a master's student in education, are making their way back to the church after wandering away in their undergraduate years. With both kinds of students, I serve as a pastoral figure, getting to know them as people over many different conversations, and through the example of my life and in those conversations share about the life in Jesus that I have found.

Multi-ethnicity: Guided by the vision of Revelation 7:9 that I wrote about above, I seek to serve those students well who are not white or part of the majority culture. I do so by listening as best I can to the concerns of students of color and empowering them to lead in our fellowship. One example of this approach is when I asked the leaders of our worship ministry to come together to talk about how we can worship as a community in a way that respects the ethnic diversity in our campus group. At this meeting were Veronique and John, two African-American students; and Daniel and Woojin, an Asian and Asian-American student, respectively. We talked about the complexity of which songs to sing, whose voices were being heard and whose voices were being stifled, and much more. The conversation lasted three hours! (For busy Harvard students, that's a very long time!) Being a multi-ethnic community of Jesus followers takes a lot of work, but I'm committed to being a part of God's ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18-20).

Leadership Development: Harvard trains its students to be leaders of the world; I aim to develop these students to lead as Christ would lead. I coach them to prioritize the needs of others above themselves, and especially to be praying for their fellow students. In the PhD fellowship group on campus, I've trained two student leaders, James and Monica, to lead other leaders. We have a group of about 10 PhD students who are involved in serving the community in one way or another, by leading a small group or leading worship ministry or coordinating events, etc. James and Monica have begun to host a monthly meeting with these other leaders where James and Monica pray for them. They are now leading other students—and doing so in a distinctly Christian way, by praying for them regularly.

Integration of Faith, Study, and Work: Graduate students at Harvard are here to study a specific discipline, whether Chemistry or Classics or Computer Science. They are the future professors, teachers, CEOs, politicians, and senior partners of the world. In addition to training them to share the good news about Jesus with their colleagues, I want to coach them such that they see their work itself as contributing to God's kingdom. At the end of each year, I help to put on an event called Ordination to Daily Work, where my InterVarsity colleagues and I "ordain" graduating students to live a life of faithfulness and service in their professions. I believe that God calls people into different fields because there is so much work to be done renewing culture, and these graduating students will be part of that work. Throughout their time in graduate school, I help them to see their study and work as being part of God's kingdom purposes in the world.

How is the Gospel proclaimed through your ministry?

I believe that there is abundant life to be found in Jesus, made known in the community of his followers on earth, and I want as many students at Harvard to know that as possible. In my many conversations with students each week, I pray for God to make known to others the joy of living this life through me, as God has done for me through others. Because God transformed my life through the slow, patient work of relationships, I pray and trust that one crucial way that the Gospel is made manifest is through these relationships that I'm forming with students as I get to know them and try to love them well.

Practically, though, my colleagues and I have certain events at which we proclaim and gospel and invite a response from students. In early October of each year, we go on a retreat to Toah Nipi in New Hampshire, one of InterVarsity's camps in New England. More than 150 students join us for this weekend from Harvard as well as a couple of other schools in Boston. The main speaker at this retreat preaches the gospel and invites students to respond. (We rotate being the main speaker.)

In addition, each month during the year I plan a worship night for graduate students. I often invite a pastor or even graduate student to preach the Gospel and sometimes students are asked to respond. For the academic year '19-'20, I'm working with another student leader, Brandon, a PhD student in economics, to think of ways to expand and improve the ways we proclaim the Gospel through these monthly worship nights.

Finally, the most effective way of proclaiming the Gospel that I've found is telling students about Jesus in the context of relationship. Anna, the PhD student whom I've gotten to know over the last two years while studying the Gospel According to Mark, has been someone I meet with regularly to talk about Jesus. I meet with her often to field her questions and tell her more about God. She was very close to being baptized last Thanksgiving but is not quite ready. You can join me in continuing to pray for her.

What goals did you accomplish last year?

At the beginning of this last year, I prayed and brainstormed with my colleagues about how God was leading us to serve at Harvard. We came up with three goals: to be a radically welcoming community that proclaimed the Gospel, to be a racially reconciled and multi-ethnic group, and to form students in a Sabbath-shaped lifestyle. These three goals guided my ministry, and although they are all qualitative goals and hard to measure, I am confident that God led us more deeply into being the kind of community that embodies those values.

Practically speaking, we prayed to God that our ministry would grow, and God answered that prayer. Even though numbers do not tell the whole story, we were able to reach more students than the previous year. In this academic year of '18-'19, 219 graduate students at

Harvard were somewhat regularly attending one or more of the activities (that could be a small group, a large group, worship night, prayer meeting) that my two colleagues or I were hosting. That is a 28% increase from our numbers during the '17-'18 academic year. We are praising God for meeting our goal of growing as a graduate Christian community at Harvard!

What are your ministry goals for the coming year?

- 1) **Expand number of non-Christian students with whom I work.** There are so many students who come to Harvard who do not have religion on their minds. I want to meet as many of these students as I can during orientation week so that their curiosity might be piqued about exploring spiritual questions. There are several activities fairs where graduate students gather, and I look forward to having a booth for the Christian fellowship and striking up conversations with people who might be inclined to walk right by our booth without saying anything. That way I can continue to build relationships with these students throughout the year and introduce them to the good news of Jesus.
- 2) **Create more opportunities for calls to faith at our large group worship nights.** As I wrote about above, I'm already working with a student leader, Brandon, to make our large group worship nights more about outreach to non-Christian students. We want to create space for students to share testimonies at those evenings about what God is doing in their lives, and also to feature speakers who will preach the gospel and invite students to respond with faith.
- 3) **Empower student leaders at the School of Education.** Harvard's School of Education is a tricky place for student leadership because it's a nine-month master's program. Normally, I invite students to participate for a year in our fellowship groups before becoming a leader during their second year. At the school of Education, though, there is no second year! As a result, I want to pray and see if God will clearly identify several leaders at the beginning of the year whom I could invite to lead other students during the year. This past year I did most of the leading, teaching, and mentoring; and I feel God calling me to empower others to do some of this leading so that I can invest more in cultivating relationships with non-Christians to invite them to know Jesus.
- 4) **Create culture of slow, sabbath living in my fellowship groups.** This is the least tangible, but perhaps most important goal that I have for the coming year. I want my students to follow God in keeping the sabbath and resisting the culture of busyness and success that pervades Harvard. Even with good intentions, they can easily get sucked into basing their worth on what they achieve rather than on what God has done for them. This kind of fast-paced, achievement-minded culture affects our community and our witness to the university, so I want to coach my students to live counter-culturally according to God's sabbath rhythm. It starts with my doing it in my own life, so I will be praying for God to free me from my own achievement-oriented mindset and grant me shalom and sabbath rest.
- 5) **Cultivate relationships with more ministry partners.** Since Anna and I are beginning a family together, I am raising a bigger budget than the previous two years. As a result, I am praying that God will lead me to get to know other ministry partners who are passionate about making Jesus known among Harvard's graduate students and faculty. Because I came to faith as an adult, I don't have a broad network of Christian donors from my family or childhood friends. I am praying that God might bring unexpected people into my life who can partner with me in the mission of God on campus.

Highlight new endeavors you have planned for your ministry in the coming year.

Investigating God nights: This past year we did not have any groups that were specifically designed to be a space where seeking or skeptical students could ask questions about the Christian faith. James, one of the student leaders of the PhD fellowship, and I are interested in creating such a group and inviting those we know with questions to join. We know that many people have questions about Christianity but are afraid to ask them. We hope to create space where students can truly ask any questions.

PhD Students' Retreat: Although we go on a Boston-wide student retreat in October, our PhD fellowship doesn't go on a retreat with only other PhD students. I'd like to create a retreat for PhD students in January, with two objectives. One would be to invite students who were not involved in our community in the fall but could jump in with a retreat in January, and the other is to deepen relationships students have with God and each other at the beginning of a difficult time (winter in Boston!).

Faculty-Student Mixer: I have gotten to know four professors at Harvard's school of education this year who are all Christians. For the benefit of incoming students, I want to host an event early in the year where these four faculty can come speak about their faith and students get to meet them. As I think about serving both graduate students and faculty, I want graduate students to benefit from the wisdom of faculty and for faculty to benefit from the energy of students. Together they can pray and work for the revival and renewal of the university.

How can we pray for you and your ministry? Mission prayer team meets the first Monday of every month. E-mail prayer requests to: mission@firstpresevanston.org

I will be happy to send prayer requests to the missions team at First Pres before the first Monday of each month. I also list my current prayer requests at the bottom of my ministry newsletter, which I send every month.

I am currently inviting supporters to pray for the students who don't yet have jobs for after graduation, especially for Marissa, Isaiah, Edith, Rin, Jenny, Asa, Drew, Daphnee, and Sarah.

You can please also pray for the student leadership transition in our PhD fellowship, which is happening at the end of May. We have identified student leaders and are praying that God would lead them to accept our offer for leading the group.

Finally, my wife, Anna, is having a severe flare of her ulcerative colitis, a chronic illness that affects the colon. It's concerning because she is 25 weeks pregnant, and we are trying to discern whether to get surgery, which is not ideal for this late in pregnancy. Please pray for complete healing of Anna's colon wall and for discernment during this process! She is doing much better but we don't know what the next 15 weeks will hold for her until the baby comes.

Part III. FPCE Partnership Information

Do you have FPCE members involved in your ministry? If so, please provide their names (unless they are confidential) and tell us how they are involved (financial support, volunteer, etc.).

Ron Ehresman has been an on-site intercessor for InterVarsity's Graduate and Faculty Ministry National Staff Conference in Mundelein, IL, which is where I met Ron. He has been praying for my ministry since then.

Tom and Cynthia Bridges, members of FPCE, are also people who pray for and support my ministry.

Jay Sivits provided spiritual direction for me for a period of time, and was a voice of wisdom and spiritual direction in my life until she passed away earlier this year.

When was the last time you visited FPCE?

I am planning to visit when I am next in Chicago, which will be late this summer or early in the fall. My parents still live in Wilmette, and I visit them regularly. Since I did not grow up as a Christian in Wilmette, I never had a home church, and have been searching for one near Wilmette for the past couple of years to call my home church. I am hoping that FPCE can become this home church for me. (I am also praying that my parents might start attending FPCE as a way of getting to know Jesus!) I attended Davidson College and Columbia Theological Seminary, both PC(USA) schools, and most of my faith formation has happened in PC(USA) churches. While in seminary, I interned at North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA.

When was the last time a member or team from FPCE visited you?

Ron Ehresman and I got together in March 2019 when I was in Mundelein, IL for an InterVarsity conference.

FPCE is looking to provide more short-term mission experiences for its members. Please describe any opportunities that are available in your ministry:

Anyone who is interested in campus ministry would find working at Harvard in a short-term mission capacity interesting. It might not be as interesting for those who are looking for traditional short-term ministry opportunities. However, I am very much open to people coming to help and learn what it's like to work with students at Harvard!

Will you be in the Chicago area in the next year? If so, provide dates. Please arrange a visit with the FPCE Mission Council when you are in the area. We'd like to know you better!

I will definitely be in Chicago for the weekend of October 19-20. It is likely that I'll be there in August, too, though I do not yet have definitive plans. Because my family still lives there, I am happy to come back to Chicago for key events/whenever the FPCE mission council meets.

Part IV. Financial Support Information

***** Please attach a financial report/summary from the previous year
AND a projected budget for 2013*****

****I have attached the financial report of my ministry for the current fiscal year, from July 2018 until April 2019. I have also attached my projected budget for 2019-2020, which has increased due to my wife and I having a baby girl in September.**

How much support do you request from FPCE? I would love to request \$3,500

Is this support for salary/living or ministry expenses? It is for both.

What percentage of your support comes from FPCE, if any? None yet.

How many donors are on your support team? Around 70

Mailing address for financial support payments:

Please list exactly as it should appear on envelope.

Attn: Donation Services
InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA
PO Box 7895
Madison, WI 53791-9703

Your account number (or special payment instructions): Write “for the ministry of Jeff Banks”
on the subject line of the check

We issue support once per year. Which month would you prefer to receive support payments? Please circle one.

March June **August** December

Field Financial Report - Jeff Banks Year-to-Date Apr '19

Ledger Account	Actual YTD Fiscal Year	Budget YTD Fiscal Year	Budget - Annual
-- TOTAL INCOME --	61,302	68,218	81,862
Gifts	61,302	64,052	76,862
Transfers		4,167	5,000
-- TOTAL EXPENSE --	66,866	68,219	81,862
Overhead	10,219	11,223	13,467
Allocations			
Compensation	34,454	43,782	52,538
Employee Benefits	10,097	7,010	8,412
Education or Training	1,516	383	460
Professional Fees	150		
Information Technology	54		
Office Expenses	1,244	1,667	2,000
Advertising & Promotions	86		
Travel, Student Meals,	8,561	2,500	3,000
Conferences	485	1,654	1,985
-- SURPLUS OR (DEFICIT) --	(5,564)	(0)	(0)

GFM Boston Area

Susan Park

GFM Northeast IV Region

Staff #1

Banks,

Enter Budget Name:

Jeffrey

Enter current six digit Field Cost Center (account) number if known:

590702

(7001)	1. Annual Gross Pay (complete information below)	50,280
(7008)	Annual FICA	3,846
	Total Annual Pay and Fica	54,126
	2. Benefits - medical, life, dental, long term disability, pension, R&P match, fellowship fund, worker comp. - (complete information below)	22,428
(7101)		22,428
(7301)	3. Training - ONS, NISSET, Other	460
(8100)	4. Office Expenses (supplies, phone/internet, postage, copier, books)	1,200
(8402)	5. Office Rent, Utilities, Insurance	
(8500)	6. Equipment (New and Maintenance)	
(8701)	7. Travel (Auto, Air, Hotel)	1,000
(8708)	8. Business Meals	5,000
(8801)	9. Conferences (Team, Regl, Area, ME, Nat'l Staff Conf-\$435, bckgrd cks, retreats)	1,175
(9400)	10. Other Expenses	
(6501)	11. Allocations (Inc) or Exp (IV WebStore purchases, 2100 products, etc.)	
(8057)	12. Technology Charge	600
	13. Administrative Services	
(6224)	a. Region - covers region related costs/services	1,200
(6227)	b. Area - covers area related costs/services	1,500
(6228)	c. Division - covers division related costs/services	
(6230)	d. Other - Describe	125
	14. Budget Subtotal before National Overhead (1-13)	88,814
(6201)	15. 13% National Services Fee (#16 minus #14)	13,271
	16. TOTAL BUDGET-"Budget Subtotal Before N.O."(divided by .87)	102,085
	Breakdown of Income	
(4902)	a. School/Chapter Allocation Support	6,090
(4147)	b. Area or Regional Transfers/Support	
(4905)	c. MEM Staff Grants	
(4001)	d. Personal Support	95,995
	Total Income	102,085
	Total Monthly Support Budget - over employment period	8,507

If different, select projected first month on salary: **Jul**

If different, Select # of months on salary: **12**

Enter STAFF # 1 Compensation Information from Workday "Budget I

a. Enter Staff #1 Name: Jeff Banks

b. Select Benefits Option Description +30Hrs Family

c. Select Position Title Description: CSM 2

d. Assigned Salary Level 6

e. Gross Pay - Enter Monthly Budgeted Pay (what you plan to pay) \$4,190

f. Enter Budgeted hours per week 40.00

g. Comparatio for Budgeted Pay 109.1%

h. Below Minimum (lower salary letter) or Quartile D Pay
(See Budget Instruction Kit when Collegiate VP approval required)

i. Monthly Min to Max Range of Pay Level (prorated for PT) 2879 to 4800

j. Technology Charge for this employee 600

If over Max Range, explain (i.e. geographic Adj./COLA):

Enter STAFF # 2 Compensation & Benefits Info. If Applicable