

St. John Christian Methodist Episcopal Church

Scholarship Committee

SCHOLARSHIP CRITERIA

The St. John CME Church Scholarship Committee awards scholarships to youth and adults who pursue higher education at a college or vocational/technical school. The applicants for this award must meet the criteria stated below. Failure to meet these criteria could result in the denial of an award.

1. **BASIC CRITERIA** (Any one of Basic Criteria A, B, C, or D may be waived for any applicant by 2/3 vote of the Scholarship Committee.)
 - A. **MEMBER** – A member of St. John CME Church for at least 3 years prior to the date of the scholarship award. Membership must be validated by the pastor or his designee.
 - B. **SCHOLASTIC RECORD** – Scholarship applicant must have a high school diploma or GED equivalent. Applicant shall have a minimum grade point average of 2.0 (high school cumulative). An official transcript for the second quarter must be included with the application. If applicant's scholastic record is based on a GED, a copy of the GED certificate must be included with the application.
 - C. **CITIZENSHIP** – Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen or permanent U.S. resident. (Resident shall be defined by the U.S. Bureau of Immigration.)
 - D. **RECOMMENDATIONS** – Application must furnish three (3) letters of recommendation, at least one of which must be written by an active member of St. John CME (excluding the pastor and members of the Scholarship Committee). Letters cannot be written by persons related to the applicant. Acceptable letter writers are guidance counselors, teachers, community leaders, neighbors, etc.
 - E. **ACCEPTANCE FOR FURTHER STUDY** – Applicant shall be eligible to enroll as a full-time student in an accredited post-secondary school (trimester, or quarter system); an accredited post-secondary school that offers a degree or certificate in a recognized occupation. Evidence of acceptance or student enrollment status must be included with the application.

2. **PERFORMANCE CRITERIA**

Applicants who have met the Standards for Basic Criteria” under Item 1 above, must also meet the criteria of this section.

- A. Applicant must have demonstrated dedication in the performance of Church activities without compensation. Demonstrate special talent and/or ability in other specific areas, included but not limited to academics, athletics, vocational arts, work experience, fine arts, or technical sciences.
- B. Community Service – Applicant must have performed community service and exhibited leadership qualities. Participation in any of the following organizations is acceptable for qualification under this section: church organizations, Boys Scout or Girls Scout of America, Department of Recreation and Parks activities, extracurricular school activities, and other community service organizations.

3. **ESSAY**

Applicant will be required to submit an essay with the application. The application must be on one of the topics listed in Items A-E below. The essay should include five well developed paragraphs of seven to ten sentences each. Essays must be typed in Times New Roman, size 12 Font; double spaced with 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right).

- A. Explain how contemporary Christian music will enhance worship service for young people.
- B. Select/identify a past or current world leader, public figure or individual you admire. What makes you admire this person? What has the person done to make you interested in him/her? How has he/she acted as a role model for society? (The individual that you select may be a relative.)
- C. Given the social institutions Family and Education, choose one and explain how African Americans may support the institution.
 - a. **Education** - Identify one college by name. Tell specifically what African Americans should do to support this institution.

- b. **Family** - Identify the basic family structure of your home or another family structure you admire. Give specifics as to how you would support this structure (financially, spiritually, and emotionally).

D. We are now a very global society in which technology constantly changes. Identify one skill that an individual will need to secure a place in the 21st century. Explain why this skill is essential.

E. Open Topic – Select a topic of your choice and adhere to the guidelines set forth above. Note: Applicant’s choice of topic must be approved by the Scholarship Committee Chairperson and the Pastor prior to submission.

4. INTERVIEW

Applicants must be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee. In addition to a review of the applicant’s credentials, the applicant will be evaluated on the basis of personal appearance, discussion of the essay, and attitude or demeanor. Questions asked may refer to the essay topic, to the chosen major, and/or the choice of school, etc.

5. FINAL SELECTION

Applicants who have been certified under Items 1, 2, and 3 will be notified of the Scholarship Committee’s decision. All decisions of the Committee are final. Scholarships will be awarded annually in the month of June.

6. SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The scholarship will be in an amount determined by the Scholarship Committee based on available funds.

7. INELIGIBILITY

In order to give other student applicants the opportunity to receive an award, students who have previously received a scholarship from the Committee will not be eligible to reapply.

8. APPLICATION DEADLINE

All applications MUST be submitted by the 2nd Sunday in April.

Checklist of Items Submitted

(Place an X beside all items submitted.)

- Application
- Essay
- Official copy of transcript
- Three letters of recommendation

- A letter of acceptance from a chosen college

The original letter of acceptance from a chosen college should be included with the application. If not available at the time of the application, the letter of acceptance must be submitted by the 2nd Sunday in June.

FUNDS WILL NOT BE DISTRIBUTED IF ALL REQUESTED MATERIAL IS NOT SUBMITTED.