

Scholarship and Loan Information

1. **The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry** has an Office of Loans and Scholarships. You may read about its loan and scholarship programs at the website: www.gbhem.org. From there, click on "Loans and Scholarships."

There is a variety of information and detail on GBHEM's web pages to include some descriptions of their most popular programs. The Scholarships office administers over 60 programs and they use a computer system to help scan each application to determine the best for each applicant. Applicants may apply for a scholarship determined by their committees starting January 4, 2010 for the fall 2010 term using the on line application that will be open at this website. Seminarians attending UM related schools of theology are also encouraged to contact the Financial Aid office to inquire about being nominated for an SEA seminary allocation from GBHEM but nominated by the school.

For more information, contact:

The United Methodist Church
General Board of Higher Education and Ministry
Office of Loans and Scholarships
P.O. Box 340007
Nashville, TN 37203-0007
615-340-7344

2. **Conference Makes Merit Award Scholarship Available**

Merit awards are annual conference administered awards to United Methodist students attending United Methodist colleges or universities. The awards are funded by a rebate to the AWF annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through its Office of Loans and Scholarships. Funds rebated to each Annual Conference are 10% of the Student Day Offering receipts from that Annual Conference.

Guidelines:

1. Awards are to United Methodist students who are enrolled in a full time degree program at an institution of higher education recognized as United Methodist by the University Senate. It is not required that the institution be within the bounds of the Alabama West Florida Annual Conference.
2. Awards are granted based on "merit," and should be understood that merit can be in terms of academic scholarship, church involvement, financial need, special vocational preparation for ministry or other service, or a combination of these factors.

For more information, contact:

Steve Spining at sspining@charter.net or at 334-288-3956.
Applications must be received no later than July 20, 2009.

3. **Stegall Seminary Scholarship Foundation.** This foundation seeks to provide every seminary student from the Alabama-West Florida Conference with a cash scholarship on a quarterly basis. These cash scholarships are available for all seminary students attending accredited seminaries recognized by the United Methodist Church.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Karl K. Stegall
P. O. Box 241661
Montgomery, AL 36124-1661

4. **Alabama West Florida Asbury Seminary Foundation.** This foundation offers financial assistance to students of Asbury Theological Seminary. To qualify one must be a certified candidate for ministry and enrolled at Asbury Theological Seminary.

For more information, contact:

Mike or Jo Ann Roberts.
Office Phone - 850/434-0118
Email - joanndroberts@att.net.

5. **Dauphin Way United Methodist Church Stipends.** Dauphin Way UMC offers \$3,000 per annum to students from Alabama West Florida at any United Methodist seminary and at Asbury Theological Seminary. On-line classes or other non-UM seminaries are not included in this program.

For more information, contact:

Dr. Gorman Houston
Dauphin Way United Methodist Church
1507 Dauphin Street
Mobile, Alabama 36604
Office Phone - 251.471.1511
Email - ghouston@dauphinwayumc.org

Please include the following information in your request for this stipend: status in school, status with conference, and home church. Emails or letters need to be received prior to August 15 to register for fall semester or by December 15 for new registrants in spring semester.

**6. ALABAMA-WEST FLORIDA UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION, INC.
P O BOX 8066
DOTHAN, ALABAMA 36304**

The U. M. Foundation manages a number of scholarship trusts for seminary students, each with its own particular requirements. Below is a listing of these scholarships with a brief description of the requirements. The funds available vary from fund to fund. There is a standard application for all ministerial scholarships and then the Scholarship Committee submits the application for funds for which they qualify. Again, the amount varies with the income earned and the number of students applying.

The deadline for applying is June 30th each year and the committee meets in July to review the applications and select the recipients. Students must submit a new application each year.

For more information, contact:

Terri Turner at foundation@alwfumf.org or at 334-793-6820 for more information. Applications are available at the website: www.ALWFUMF.org.

SCHOLARSHIP LISTINGS FROM THE AWF UM FOUNDATION

*** CARL J. SANDERS MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable, depending on financial need and number of applicants.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be a third-year student (senior) and is attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Awards are for one academic year and must not exceed the actual cost of tuition and books. No student over thirty-two (32) years of age will be eligible for these funds. Applicant must further demonstrate clear intent to return to said conference in service as an ordained United Methodist clergy.

*** ETHEL COLOUITT MARTIN SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable, depending on financial need and number of applicants.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be a third-year student (senior) and is attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Awards are for one

academic year and must not exceed the actual cost of tuition and books. No student over thirty-two (32) years of age will be eligible for these funds. Applicants must further demonstrate clear intent to return to said conference in service as an ordained United Methodist clergy.

ROSA AND ALTO V. LEE SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable, depending on financial need and number of applicants.

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant(s) must be attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Applicant must further demonstrate clear intent to return to said conference for the purpose of service in ministry to the churches of the Alabama-West Florida Episcopal area.

*** LESTER H. SPENCER MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

NUMBER: ONE (1)

AMOUNT: Not to exceed one thousand dollars (\$1000.00) or the actual cost of tuition subject to fund availability.

QUALIFICATIONS: Assistance available for students attending an accredited school of theology recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Board of Ministry of the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Applicant must demonstrate clear intent to return to said conference as an ordained United Methodist minister. Applicant must be a second or third year student. Due consideration is given to both the need of the student and the evidence of exceptional promise and gifts for the ministry.

*** ROSE WIMBERLY SPENCER MEMORIAL TRUST**

NUMBER: One (1)

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be attending either an accredited four-year college or university or an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and have demonstrated a clear intent to become an ordained United Methodist minister and to return for service within the bounds of the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

STANLEY SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: One (1)

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Funds are available for full and part-time lay pastors who are enrolled in approved certification and/or continuing education courses. First priority is given to applicants serving within the Dothan District of the Alabama-West Florida Conference and if none are available, a student preparing for ministry within the bounds of the Conference regardless of age, sex or race.

*** FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students from the Alabama-West Florida Conference preparing for full-time, ordained pastoral ministry in the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Students must be attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church. Consideration be given to financial need and promise for ministry. Recipients must serve at least 1 year in the Alabama-West Florida Conference.

*** MARGARET MOSER LANDERS SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students from the Alabama-West Florida Conference who intend to become an ordained United Methodist minister and plan to return for service within the bounds of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church. No student over thirty-eight (38) years of age **at the time of entry** will be eligible for this scholarship.

*** RISH FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students from the Alabama-West Florida Conference who intend to become an ordained United Methodist minister and plan to return for service within the bounds of the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

*** HILDRETH/ELLISOR SCHOLARSHIP TRUST**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students from the Alabama-West Florida Conference presently attending an accredited school of theology approved by the United Methodist Church and demonstrating a clear intent to return to the Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church as an ordained minister.

*** DON FULLER SCHOLARSHIP TRUST ---
--ALL FUNDS DISBURSED**

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable, not to exceed \$2,400 per person annually.

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to ministerial students attending Candler School of Theology with intent to become a United Methodist minister and return to serve within the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Selected by the Scholarship Committee of the U. M. Foundation, priority should be given to those students that are married and/or have dependent families.

CHARLES & PAMELA AVERY SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Alabama-

West Florida Conference or be a licensed full time local pastor enrolled in the course of study. Applicant must further demonstrate clear intent to remain in, or return to said conference for the purposed of ministry to the churches of that conference. Special consideration should be given to financial need.

LANGDON GARRISON MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be attending an accredited seminary recognized by the United Methodist Church and the Alabama-West Florida Conference. Applicant must be preparing to become an Ordained Elder with the intention of serving in the Alabama-West Florida Annual Conference. Priority consideration will be given to a student's financial needs and their potential for ministry.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED BY LOCAL CHURCHES OR ORGANIZATIONS:

DARIUS W. BELL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students in religious education either undergraduate or graduate from the Marianna-Panama City District preferably from the Center Ridge UMC. They should have the intent to attend or presently attending an accredited school, college, seminary or course of study for full or part time local pastors or students. The Trustees of the Center Ridge UMC will determine eligibility.

GLENN & ELAINE CARMICHAEL SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Scholarships to be awarded to United Methodist students from the Montgomery-Opelika District presently attending an accredited school of theology approved by the United Methodist Church and demonstrating a clear intent to return to the

Alabama-West Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church as an ordained minister. The District Superintendent and the District Committee on Ordained Ministries will make selection of the scholarship recipient. Any scholarship funds not used in any given year may be held in the trust and used for scholarships in future years.

MILLS-MONTGOMERY-OPELIKA DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: One (1)

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: Applicant must be a student local pastor attending an accredited seminary. First priority is given to applicants serving within the Montgomery-Opelika District but if no applicants are from Mty-Opelika District, recipient may be from another district. Any funds not used in a given year shall be reinvested into the corpus.

BARNETT-TURNER SCHOLARSHIP TRUST

NUMBER: One (1)

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: A scholarship for ministerial education is to be made each July for tuition only for one year to a young man or woman who will be ordained for pulpit ministry to serve in any United Methodist Conference. Individual must be at least in the first year in a theological seminary. Mr. Wells Turner and Mrs. Frances Turner will choose the recipient(s) for which scholarships are to be awarded.

DARLINGTON-MOORE SCHOLARSHIP

NUMBER: Variable

AMOUNT: Variable

QUALIFICATIONS: A scholarship to Candler School of Theology for students pursuing education for full-time Christian services. The Board of Trustees and Administrative Board of Darlington UMC is to select an applicant who is a member of church but if none, any person residing with the immediate community of church but if none, any person residing within the Marianna-Panama City District UMC.

** When these scholarships were established the donors used the terms: "Ordained United Methodist Clergy", "Ordained United Methodist Minister", and "Ordained Pastoral Ministry". The Scholarship Committee, on advice from the Division of Ordained Ministry, interprets these terms to mean – using current DISCIPLINE terminology – ORDAINED ELDER.*

7. Ministerial Education Funds

The Conference Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) assists ministerial students in approved seminaries and Course of Study students in approved COS settings.

To be eligible for MEF money, a seminary student must be a certified candidate in the Alabama-West Florida Conference and must complete an application form provided on the conference website at www.awfumc.org/bom. The student should contact the Director of Ministerial Services at the conference office immediately upon acceptance at an approved seminary.

A new MEF form is filled out once every twelve months by the student. During the year for which a form is valid, a notification is required from the seminary registrar every semester telling the Director of Ministerial Services that the student is in fact enrolled for that particular term and the number of hours being taken in said term. This notice should come to the Director of Ministerial Services as near the beginning of the term as possible.

Whenever a student is approved for a certain amount for a particular academic term, the Director of Ministerial Services sends a check order to the conference fiscal office, and then a check is issued to the seminary and sent to the seminary to be applied to the student's account. Course of Study students are to submit to the Director of Ministerial Services proper forms provided by their COS directors. These are to be filled out and signed by the Director of Ministerial Services and returned to the COS address listed on the form.

The MEF provides funding of a maximum of \$1500 for each approved full-time student at seminary taking a minimum of 9 hours per semester. If the student is taking less than a full time load, the amount awarded is prorated accordingly. An academic career maximum of \$9,000 can be given a student. So-called "Jan terms" and summer terms may also be included in this funding program, if the student desires it, but any money given for these terms counts toward the overall career maximum of \$9,000.

Anyone receiving MEF money from the Alabama-West Florida Conference is expected to serve this conference in an appointment for 5 years upon graduation from seminary, or the equivalent in part-time service. If he/she transfers to another conference before this period is up, or leaves the denomination, or leaves the ordained ministry, he/she will repay the total amount loaned to him/her in full, plus interest. Terms of an agreement for this repayment are to be worked out with the Director of Ministerial Services. Course of Study students taking foundational courses, including but not limited to full-time and part-time local pastors, are supported at the rate of \$250 per part-time study session (usually 2 weeks) and \$500 per full-time study session (usually 4 weeks).

For more information, contact:

Robin Wilson, Director of Ministerial Services

E-mail: Robin@awfumc.org

Phone: 334.356.8014