

**Northern Illinois Conference**  
**Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry**

*The Scholarship Committee*

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## **Guidelines for Awarding of Higher Education Scholarships**

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In continuing the 250+ year history of United Methodist interest and investment in education, the Northern Illinois Conference supports this commitment through the designation of funds for scholarships for higher education, and makes annual awards to encourage our youths of the conference in a pursuit of knowledge coupled with faith, that will seek to serve others through their vocation in the world.

Toward that end, the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry holds the following policies for its awarding of undergraduate scholarships on an annual basis:

1. **The amount for scholarships will be determined by the conference budget** in accordance with designated funds for higher education, offerings from United Methodist Student Sunday, the United Methodist Foundation, and other means that contribute to the dollars available.
2. **Awards will be given each year by conference time**, and along with notification of the recipient, will be noted as a part of the conference report of the BHEM.
3. **The Scholarship Committee, a sub-committee of the Conference Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry will review the application form and award guidelines each year**, and submit to the Board any proposals for change. Once approved, the committee will serve as the selection body for the review of applications and awarding of scholarships.
4. **Eligible applicants are:**
  5. High school seniors, and college students who have been a full member of a United Methodist Church within the Northern Illinois Conference for two years prior to their application for a scholarship. Also eligible are students outside the conference who have been a full member of a home United Methodist Church for two years and have an affiliate membership of a United Methodist Church within the bounds of the conference for one year.
  6. Eligible students must plan to be enrolled full-time for the 2008-09 academic year, and must verify full-time enrollment each term to receive the funds.
  7. Persons who have demonstrated leadership within the NIC faith community through their participation in ministries within the local church, through a campus

ministry or UM-related college or university, and/or on a district, conference and/or ecumenical level.

8. Students who have not received this scholarship before, or having received this award before, have shown outstanding leadership in their local church or campus ministry for a second year award.
9. **Award consideration will be given on the basis of a strong application**, which includes:
  10. The application form fully completed, with indicated signatures, and postmarked by April 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. **Late applications will not be considered.**
  11. A personal statement that indicates strong past and present church/campus ministry involvement, potential future commitment or vocation in serving the church and purpose of Christ that will provide leadership for the Church and ministering through one's work to the needs of the world, and campus activities involved in or hope to be involved in;
  12. A reference letter from the pastor of the student's local church, giving note of church involvement and future commitment to serve Christ;
  13. Additional reference letter(s) from a campus minister or college chaplain, teacher or professor, Sunday School teacher or others who can provide information about the character and commitment of the student.
14. **Recipient applications will then be considered in the following categories of connection to the Northern Illinois Conference**, with amounts or awards and numbers in each category contingent upon funds that have been received, and based upon the strength of the application:
  15. Students attending a United Methodist college or university within the bounds of the annual conference. (North Central College, Kendall College)
  16. Students attending a United Methodist college or university outside the conference bounds.
  17. Students attending a college or university within the bounds of the Annual Conference.
  18. All other applications.
19. **Priority of awards will be given to students demonstrating discipleship leadership and future potential to serve the Church of Jesus Christ.** The Scholarship Committee will be sensitive to an appropriate distribution of scholarships across the six NIC districts. Furthermore, a percentage distribution will be made in each geographical category (#6 above) as appropriate.