



United Methodist Foundation of Michigan Leadership Scholars Program for Seminary Students

This scholarship program recognizes seminary students who have demonstrated exceptional leadership potential and who have pursued an education that will assist in their ability to be adaptive leaders across the Michigan Area of The United Methodist Church. Applicants are recommended by the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry and must meet eligibility requirements in order to be considered. The scholarships assist seminary students with the common financial challenge that they face while attending seminary. Multiple scholarships up to \$10,000 for full-time students and up to \$5,000 for part-time students may be awarded.

Qualified applicants must submit an application, a response to essay questions, an official transcript, a letter of recommendation from the supervising district superintendent, and two (2) additional letters of recommendation prior to April 15th of the year prior to the academic year in which the scholarship will be provided. Applications are available online at www.umfmichigan.org. Scholars must meet a number of eligibility requirements including:

- Be a certified candidate under the supervision of the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry
- Be enrolled as a part-time or full-time student and currently attend a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church
- Demonstrate exceptional leadership capacity to serve The United Methodist Church
- Declare an intent to serve for a minimum of five (5) years on a deacon or elder track within the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church
- Maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher
- Provide personal financial information to demonstrate financial need

All scholars and applicants shall be notified of the award decision in early May. Scholarship funds shall be paid to the seminary for the benefit of the scholars in two installments – the fall and spring semesters following the add/drop course deadline. The scholarship amounts may vary annually relative to the funds available. The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan is committed to being a partner with the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church in addressing pastoral leadership excellence and clergy personal financial acumen. The United Methodist Foundation of Michigan Leadership Scholars Program for Seminary Students is one of our hallmark examples of this partnership. Direct any questions to the Foundation office 888-451-1929 or info@umfmichigan.org.



United Methodist Foundation of Michigan Leadership Scholars Program for Seminary Students Application

Please complete the following information and return by **APRIL 15, 2025**, to:

info@umfmichigan.org or
United Methodist Foundation of Michigan
3347 Eagle Run NE • Suite B • Grand Rapids, MI 49525

Name		
Address		
City/State/Zip		
Phone	Email	
Marital Status ___ Single ___ Married ___ Divorced	Number of Dependents	
Date Certified by DCOM		
Name of Seminary Attending	Degree Pursuing	Cumulative GPA
During the 2023-2024 academic year, I intend to be enrolled: ___ Full-Time ___ Part-Time Credit hours per semester _____		
Estimated Annual Expenses: (Note: Include total household expenses. If married or dependents are living with you, include those related expenses.)		
Tuition & Books: -----	Housing: -----	
Transportation: -----	Child Care: -----	
Food: -----	Insurance: -----	
Medical: -----	Clothing: -----	
Annual Debt Repayment: -----	Other Personal: -----	
Other (specify):	Going Out/Travel/Fitness/Entertainment:	

Estimated Annual Income:

(Note: Include total household income, less taxes. If married or dependents are living with you, include their income, if any.)

Net Wages/Salary/Work Study:

Other Grants/Scholarships:

529 Plan Contributions/Financial Gifts:

Other (specify):

Household Debt:

(Note: Include total household debt. If married or dependents are living with you, include their debt, if any.)

Undergraduate Student Loans:

Graduate School/Seminary Student Loans:

Credit Card Debt:

Medical Debt:

Mortgage:

Other (specify):

I attest to the following:

___ I am a certified candidate under the supervision of the Michigan Conference Board of Ordained Ministry.

___ I am enrolled as a part-time or full-time seminary student and currently attend a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and approved by the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church.

___ I declare an intent to serve for a minimum of five (5) years on a deacon or elder track within the Michigan Conference of The United Methodist Church.

___ My cumulative GPA is 3.00 or higher.

___ The information in this application is accurate, truthful, and complete.

___ I understand that if I have been dishonest with any portion of this application or intentionally misrepresented financial information, the United Methodist Foundation of Michigan may, at its sole discretion, seek legal action for repayment of any scholarship funds provided.

Signature

Date

Print Name

Please provide your thoughtful response to the following: (word count limit 500 per question)

1. How do you plan to integrate the United Methodist Church's theological beliefs and mission into your ministry, and what specific aspects of the denomination's teachings resonate most with your calling?
2. Given the changing landscape of ministry, how do you envision addressing contemporary challenges within the church (such as belonging, worship attendance, or technology), and how is your education preparing you to lead effectively in these areas?
3. How do you define courageous leadership within the context of The United Methodist Church, and how do you plan to embody this leadership as you serve in your ministry?

Letters of Recommendation: (To be provided *directly* from the recommender)

Provide a letter of recommendation from your supervising District Superintendent. This letter should specifically address the DS's perception of 1) your gifts and skills, 2) your capacity to serve as an exceptional leader in the Church, and 3) the opportunities for your continued growth as a leader.

In addition, provide two (2) letters of recommendation from seminary faculty members, administrators, or staff, denominational leaders, or field assignment supervisors. Letters from members of the District Committee on Ministry or the Board of Ordained Ministry or a parishioner are NOT acceptable letters of recommendation. These letters should specifically address their perception of 1) your gifts and skills, 2) your capacity to serve as an exceptional leader in the Church, and 3) the opportunities for your continued growth as a leader.

Note: The Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) prohibits an educational institution from releasing confidential, non-directory information about a student without a student's consent. You may waive this right for faculty and staff when you ask them to write a letter of recommendation for this scholarship application process. It is your responsibility to provide this consent and to follow the appropriate protocol of the seminary.

Reminder: In order for your application to be considered, the following must be returned by April 15, 2025. It is your responsibility to verify all information has been received in our office by the due date.

- Completed Application
- Response to Essay Questions
- Official Transcript
- District Superintendent Recommendation
- Two (2) Additional Letters of Recommendation