



## **Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation Scholarship 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 Desert Southwest Area of The United Methodist Church. The scholarships assist seminary students with the common financial challenge that they face while attending seminary. Multiple scholarships up to \$5,000 for full-time students and up to \$2,500 for part-time students may be awarded. Applicants can receive scholarships once a year.

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 June 30<sup>th</sup> or December 31<sup>st</sup> deadlines. Applications are available online at [www.dsumf.org](http://www.dsumf.org). Scholars must meet a number of eligibility requirements including:

- Be a certified candidate under the supervision of the Desert Southwest 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 four (4) years on a deacon or elder track within the Desert Southwest 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 within 60 days of the application deadline. Scholarship funds shall be paid to the seminary for the benefit of the scholars. The scholarship amounts may vary annually relative to the funds available. The Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation is committed to being a partner with the Desert Southwest Conference of The United Methodist Church in addressing pastoral leadership excellence and clergy personal financial acumen. Direct any questions to the Foundation office 602-798-8202 or [foundation@dsumf.org](mailto:foundation@dsumf.org)



## Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation Scholarship Program for Seminary Students Application

Please complete the following information and return by **JUNE 30 OR DECEMBER 31 DEADLINE**, to:

foundation@dsumf.org or  
Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation  
1300 S. Litchfield Road, Suite 220-O  
Goodyear, AZ 85338

|                                                                                                                                                       |  |                                         |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------|
| Name                                                                                                                                                  |  |                                         |
| Address                                                                                                                                               |  |                                         |
| City/State/Zip                                                                                                                                        |  |                                         |
| Phone                                                                                                                                                 |  | Email                                   |
| Marital Status<br>Single      Married      Divorced                                                                                                   |  | Number of Dependents                    |
| Date Certified by DCOM                                                                                                                                |  |                                         |
| Name of Seminary Attending                                                                                                                            |  | Degree Pursuing      Cumulative GPA     |
| During the 2026-2027 academic year, I intend to be enrolled:<br>Full-Time      Part-Time      Credit hours per semester _____                         |  |                                         |
| Estimated Annual Expenses:<br>(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:

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Other Grants/Scholarships:

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529 Plan Contributions/Financial Gifts:

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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:

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Credit Card Debt:

Medical Debt:

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Mortgage:

Other (specify):

I attest to the following (please initial by hand):

\_\_\_\_ I am a certified candidate under the supervision of the Desert Southwest 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 four (4) years on a deacon or elder track within the Desert Southwest 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 Desert Southwest United Methodist Foundation may, at its sole discretion, seek legal action for repayment of any scholarship funds provided.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name

In a separate document, please provide your thoughtful response to the following: (word count limit 250 per question)

1. What is an innovative ministry that you are initiating? What have you learned about yourself in the process?
2. How has the pandemic changed leadership in the Church?
3. Where are you finding inspiration or hope these days?
4. How have you committed yourself to understanding and aiding in the pursuit of diversity, equity, and inclusion in your personal life and The United Methodist Church?

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 received by December 31 or June 30. 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