

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Responsibilities

1. The Scholarship Committee will:
 - A. Oversee the scholarship program, its financial accounts and budget.
 - B. Revise policies and procedures as necessary.
 - C. Publicize the program to youth and the congregation.
 - D. Encourage the congregation to donate to the scholarship program.
 - E. Review all applications and honor the confidentiality of the information provided on scholarship application forms.
 - F. Notify all applicants regarding the status of their application.
 - G. Announce all awards in *The Spire*, the church worship service bulletin, and, when possible, introduce recipients at a worship service.
2. Composition of the Scholarship Committee: the Scholarship Committee shall be composed of church members, all of whom have voting rights.
3. Meetings of the committee shall follow application deadlines. Special meetings may be called as necessary. All committee members shall honor the confidentiality of the information provided on the scholarship application forms.
4. The Scholarship Committee shall review applications for scholarships as defined in the guidelines of each scholarship fund and inform the session of the recipients.
5. Award announcements: the Scholarship Committee will notify all applicants regarding the status of their application. The committee will announce scholarship awards in the church's newsletter, *The Spire*, and in the church worship service bulletin. Whenever possible, recipients will be introduced at a worship service.
6. Recruiting donors: in addition to "Minutes for Mission" appeals, the Scholarship Committee periodically will place articles in *The Spire* and the church worship service bulletin to encourage members to make contributions to the scholarship funds through honorariums, memorials, and estate planning.

First Presbyterian Church of Ocala, Florida
Application for a Higher Education Scholarship

Purpose

Scholarship funds of First Presbyterian Church are meant to provide some financial assistance to encourage:

- Christian young adults to attend post-secondary education;
- Christian adults who feel called by God to pursue a church related vocation;
- Christian youth and children to be active in church sponsored events.

Available Scholarship Funds

Scholarship funds whose proceeds are available for post-secondary education are:

- **The Edwin W. Albright Memorial Educational Fund**, was created to honor Edwin W. Albright, former Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida
- **The Elton Veal Memorial Scholarship Fund** began with contributions from the sons of Elton and Eileen Veal to assist deserving applicants to pursue a college education.

Scholarship funds for Christian young adult members called to a church-related vocation:

- **Katherine Taylor Scholarship Trust**
Financial assistance for young adults preparing for a church related vocation (seminary, graduate school for theology, etc.) are available.
- **The Ruth Slone Endowed Scholarship for Theological Education** was established in memory of Ruth Slone, a lifetime member of the Presbyterian faith, by her sons James and Donnie Slone. The scholarship is available for members of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida, who seek the Master of Divinity Degree, have proven their need for financial assistance, and are in good standing with both the Session and the Presbytery of St. Augustine. Rising first year seminary students are eligible, and may reapply each year for the scholarship. The scholarship also is available for ministers employed by First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida. It is available for the degrees of master of Theology, Doctor of Ministry, Doctor of Sacred Theology, and Doctor of Philosophy in a sacred field of study. Applications for the scholarship are made to the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee. Upon approval, monetary awards are made from income derived from funds in the **Ruth Slone Endowed Scholarship for Theological Education**.

Scholarship funds for assisting children and youth to attend special church- sponsored or endorsed events:

- **The Jane Layendecker Memorial Scholarship Fund** is available for fees related to church-sponsored or endorsed events such as conferences at Montreat and Camp Montgomery, Mutual Mission Youth Exchanges, etc. The application for the Jane Layendecker Memorial Scholarship Fund consists of a letter detailing the specific financial request. The Youth Director or the Director of Christian Education, in conjunction with a member of the Scholarship Committee, will review the application and make recommendations for any request.

Revised January 4, 2024

Who May Apply

Members of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida and their dependents may apply for scholarship assistance. Members and non-member regular participants in First Presbyterian Church programs and activities may apply to the **Elton Veal Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

Criteria for selection

- Timely submission of the application;
- Involvement in the life of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida, or a local church at college/graduate school location;
- Good academic achievement of the applicant for educational scholarship assistance as demonstrated by the applicant's most recent transcript of grades, or a copy of an acceptance letter to a post-secondary institution;
- Financial need may be considered for educational scholarship assistance;
- Financial need will be considered for the **Jane Layendecker Memorial Scholarship Fund**.

How to Apply

Applicants for educational financial assistance must submit to the church office by the stated deadlines:

- The attached **Application for a Higher Education Scholarship**;
- The most recent transcript of grades or a copy of an acceptance letter to a post-secondary institution.

Application deadlines are as follows:

- Fall semester – April 1 of the same year;
- Winter semester – November 1 of the preceding year;
- **Jane Layendecker Memorial Scholarship Fund** – 30 days prior to the specific event for which the request is made.
- An applicant may apply only once during a calendar year.

The Scholarship Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Ocala, Florida, will review all applications. The application process may involve a personal interview with the Scholarship Committee

The annual educational scholarship amounts for fall or winter will be determined by funds available at those times.

Application for Higher Education Scholarship

Applicant Name _____

Permanent Address _____

Marital Status _____

Date of Birth _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

E-mail address _____

Parent/guardian(s) _____

Are you a member or a dependent member of First Presbyterian Church _____

If you are a member, how many years have you been a member? _____

Where do you plan to attend school and what is your intended field of study? _____

Number of dependents on family income? _____

Number in family also attending college? _____

Estimated Total Yearly College Expense? _____

Tuition \$ _____ Transportation \$ _____

Books \$ _____ Personal Expenses \$ _____

Other \$ _____ Room /Board \$ _____

Annual Family Gross Income –check one

_____ Under \$40,000.00

_____ \$40,000to \$80,000.00

_____ \$80,000.00to \$120,000.00

_____ over \$120,000.00

Names and addresses of three references:

I declare and affirm that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further declare that any funds received from this application will be used for college expenses.

Signature:

_____ Date: _____

(OVER)

Essay Questions: *(Your answers are confidential)*

1. Please describe how you have shown faithful involvement in the life of First Presbyterian Church. If your parents are members of this church but you are a member of a different church, please let us know the same. Describe your spiritual journey. (Please limit your response to no more than 500 words.)
2. Please explain why you need this financial assistance. Are there any family financial or personal hardships that will impact your ability to meet college expenses? (Please limit your response to no more than 250 words.)
3. Please describe your future goals and objectives for your college study. What do you hope to do with your life? (Please limit your response to no more than 500 words.)