



2024 Seminary Scholarship Application and Covenant

This application is for The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas Seminary Scholarship and is awarded to those selected candidates seeking **ELDERS** orders in the Arkansas Conference as a pastor of a local church. Application and all requested items must be received by **Friday, March 15, 2024**. If you wish to apply, please return this form and the requested items to: **The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, 601 Wellington Village Rd., Little Rock, AR, 72211**. For more information, call Rev. Mackey Yokem at (501) 664-8632.

Please print:

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

Phone(s): permanent _____ home _____ work _____

Fax, E-mail _____

If a student, where _____

Name/Location of Church membership _____

Present employment _____

If you have applied or been accepted to a United Methodist seminary, please name it: _____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

Yes No

Are you indebted from your undergraduate work? If so, how much?
\$ _____

Have you applied for other scholarships?

Are you the recipient of other scholarships or grants? If so, please describe:

How do you plan to fund your seminary education?

ATTACHMENTS

Attach the following items to your application:

- A. A copy of Form 113 from UMCARES. Eligibility for this scholarship grant requires that an applicant be a Certified Candidate (2016 Book of Discipline Para. 310.2).
- B. A copy of the applicant's most recent college transcript.
- C. A copy of the applicant's resume including volunteer as well as paid employment.
- D. A minimum of two recommendation letters. One must be from someone currently and directly involved with the applicant's ministry/leadership. Persons submitting reference letters should explain how long they have known the applicant, in what setting(s) have they observed the applicant, and they should describe the applicant's relational skills, organizational skills, educational potential, intellectual abilities, and demonstrated leadership potential.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Attach responses to the following topics and questions:

- A. Describe your church and/or civic volunteer experiences.
- B. Describe your call to ministry as an Elder in the United Methodist Church and why you are seeking this scholarship.
- C. Describe a time when you faced conflict. What were the issues? What was your role? What did you do to help resolve the conflict?
- D. Ministry involves a number of gifts and skills such as preaching, teaching, counseling, managing, administration, fundraising, leadership, pastoral care, etc. Which of these are your areas of strength? Which of these will be most challenging for you?
- E. Describe your most recent experience of sharing your faith with an unchurched person.
- F. Describe a time when you found yourself in a position of leadership in the church. What are your gifts for leadership?

SCHOLARSHIP TERMS

I understand that receiving this scholarship is contingent upon:

- A. Submission of application with all requested attachments.
- B. Interview with scholarship committee.
- C. Agreeing to sign a Ministry Covenant, wherein you agree to pursue Elders orders in the Arkansas Conference as a pastor of a local church, not other forms of ministry.
- D. Approval as a Certified Candidate with the intent of pursuing Elders Orders.
- E. Acceptance for graduate work as a full-time student at a United Methodist seminary.

Applicant Signature

Date

Rev. 2/2023



SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Ministry Covenant and Promissory Note

DIRECTIONS: Students selected to receive a MFA Seminary Scholarship from The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas (“MFA”) must read this ministry covenant and promissory note, and provide the required information and signature.

A copy of this ministry covenant and promissory note is to be retained by the scholarship recipient and the original form is to be sent by the recipient to: The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, 601 Wellington Village Rd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72211.

Student Name: _____

(first) (middle initial) (last)

ARTICLE 1. SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

1.1. I verify that I have been accepted to attend a United Methodist seminary, AND I understand that this scholarship assistance will end if I cease to be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing in a United Methodist seminary program.

1.2. I understand that the need for well-trained, committed ministers is great in the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church. I agree, upon graduation of my seminary program, to serve under appointment of the Bishop and Cabinet of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for two (2) years for each full or partial academic year I have received the Ministry Scholarship.

1.3. I agree to provide MFA with annual written evidence of compliance with the requirements in Section 1.1, AND to notify MFA at such time as I am not in compliance.

ARTICLE 2. PROMISSORY NOTE

2.1 I agree that if:

- a. I fail to meet the conditions described in Article 1 (Scholarship Agreement), or
- b. I have ceased to pursue a course of study as a full-time student in a United Methodist seminary, or

- a. I fail to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for the required time commitment, or
- b. I accept appointment in any other Conference of The United Methodist Church or in any other denomination prior to the completion of my commitment to the Arkansas Conference; I will repay either the full amount of the scholarship received or a prorated amount according to the fraction of my service obligation not completed.

2.2. Collection Charges. I agree to pay all reasonable collection costs including, but not limited to, attorney fees as determined by MFA.

2.3. Repayment: I agree to enter repayment status on the first day of the first month after the earliest to occur of any of the following:

- a. MFA has determined that I have ceased to be enrolled in a United Methodist seminary program as a full-time student in good standing; or
- b. The date that I inform MFA that I do not plan to fulfill my service obligation; or
- c. The date that MFA ascertains that I have ceased serving as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference prior to fulfilling my service obligation.

2.4. I agree to make monthly payments to MFA which cover outstanding principal and five percent (5%) annual interest, and any incurred reasonable collection costs including, but not limited to, attorney fees according to a monthly payment schedule established by MFA, which calls for complete repayment within five (5) years after I enter repayment status (except as provided in Section 2.7).

2.5. Minimum monthly payments will include at least 1/60th of the total amount due, plus applicable interest and a portion of reasonable collection costs. If I fail to make any monthly payment as required by the schedule established by MFA, and such failure persists for a period of 90 days, MFA, without further notice, may declare the entire unpaid balance of the principal plus accrued interest to be immediately due, and I promise to pay such amount and reasonable collection charges including, but not limited to, attorney fees to MFA.

2.6. It is further my understanding that if I do not make the monthly payments as required by the schedule established by MFA, MFA will engage in collection efforts, including notification of credit bureaus concerning my default and litigation, similar to the collection efforts which are used by lenders and guarantee agencies in the guaranteed student loan program.

2.7. Deferment. I understand that I will not be considered in violation of the repayment schedule if I promptly request a deferment in writing and am granted a deferment during the time that I am:

- a. Serving, not in excess of three (3) years, on active duty as a member of armed services of the United States.
- b. Temporarily disabled, for a period not to exceed three (3) years, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.
- c. Unable to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months by reason of the care required by a spouse who is disabled.
- d. Actively seeking and unable to find service as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) months prior to initial service, or for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24 months) after initial service.
- e. During the time I qualify for any of the exceptions described in this Article 2, I need not make the scholarship repayments. In order to qualify for any of these exceptions, I must promptly notify MFA of my claim and provide supporting documentation acceptable to MFA. MFA shall extend the five-year scholarship repayment period by a period equal to the length of time I meet any of the conditions in Section 2.7, or if I am unable to complete the scholarship repayments within this five-year period because of my financial condition which has been established to the satisfaction of MFA, and on which basis MFA has granted to me a reduced schedule of repayments reflecting my financial condition.

2.8. Cancellation. MFA shall cancel my repayment obligation if it determines:

- a. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician, that I am unable to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or results in death.
- b. That I have become totally and permanently disabled as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.
- c. On the basis of a death certificate that is conclusive under Arkansas law.
- d. Circumstances have occurred that MFA considers as a compelling reason to excuse repayment.

2.9. General provisions include:

- a. I agree to inform MFA promptly in writing or electronically of any change in my name, permanent address, or other personal information during the time I am receiving scholarship assistance, OR if my service as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference ceases prior to fulfilling the required time commitment, OR if there is any change in my status for which a deferment is granted to me pursuant to Section 2.7 (Deferment).
- b. I understand that I must be enrolled full-time in a United Methodist seminary program and that I must maintain satisfactory academic progress as a full-time

student as determined by MFA, and that scholarship assistance will end if I do not make satisfactory progress during any term of my enrollment.

Please indicate your acceptance of these terms and conditions by signing this ministry covenant and promissory note and returning it to The Methodist Foundation for Arkansas, 601 Wellington Village Rd., Little Rock, Arkansas 72211.

Student Recipient Signature: My signature below certifies that I have read and agree to the commitments presented in this ministry covenant and promissory note.

Recipient's Signature

Date

Recipient's Printed Name

**THE METHODIST FOUNDATION FOR
ARKANSAS**

By:

Date

Rev. Wayne J. Clark
President and CEO

Rev. 2/2023