

## **Marvin F. Wallace Scholarship Fund Rules**

The purpose of the Marvin F. Wallace Scholarship Fund is to provide financial aid to members of Bethlehem Christian Church who have entered into preparation for a post-secondary education degree or credential. This preparation may be either at a four-year college or university, at a community college, or in a technical two or three year program. The scholarship may be used for the expenses of tuition, books, supplies, or special equipment for the candidate to help obtain his/her degree.

The Scholarship Committee will review the applications and select the candidate(s) to receive it for that year. Each year previous recipients may reapply and are eligible to compete for that year's scholarship award.

It shall be the responsibility of the Scholarship Committee to determine the eligibility of the candidates applying for scholarship assistance. Candidates shall return completed applications to the committee by April 30<sup>th</sup> of the year prior to fall registration. The committee will make a decision within thirty days following the above date, having considered the applicants' grades, test scores, and school, church, and community activities.

Eligible applicants are those that satisfy the following criteria:

- 1) Have scored in the 60<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on standardized tests (SAT/ACT for high school graduates and graduate school admission tests for college graduates). These test scores, including the percentile rankings of the applicant's scores, must be provided to the committee. However, once an applicant has performed at the next level of post-secondary education, the test scores for the previous level are no longer used and need not be provided. For example, a rising college freshman must provide college admissions test scores, but an applicant with at least one year of college grades need not do so.
- 2) Have maintained an unweighted Grade Point Average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- 3) Provided the Scholarship Committee with a transcript from the appropriate school authority based on the applicant's completed education:
  - Completed high school: the high school transcript
  - Completed one semester of college: the high school transcript and first semester college transcript.
  - Completed one or more years of college: the college transcript.
- 4) Have applied for admission to or have been accepted at a post-secondary educational institution.
- 5) Provided the Scholarship Committee with a completed application form, including:
  - Two letters of reference (non-family and non-Bethlehem members) – at least one of which must be from a school faculty member.
  - An essay on the candidate's goals in life and why they are applying for the scholarship.
- 6) Have been a voting member of Bethlehem Christian Church for at least one year prior to the application deadline. The church constitution defines a voting member as "a member sixteen (16) years of age or older who attends Sunday morning worship services at least once a quarter unless prohibited from doing so due to military, educational or professional obligations or health of self or family". Applicants who believe that this attendance exception applies to them should so state in their application and give their reasoning.

In the event that no scholarship is awarded because no applicant meets the preceding eligibility criteria, the scholarship committee shall inform the church Investment Committee so that the funds from the unawarded scholarship can be reinvested to produce larger scholarship awards in future years.

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The candidate will present his/her receipts for expenses to the Chairperson of the Scholarship Committee. If the receipts are for tuition, books, supplies, and special equipment, the Chairperson will instruct the Church Treasurer to reimburse the candidate for their request up to the amount the committee has agreed upon.

Loss of the Scholarship and the requirement to return any awarded funds may occur for the following reasons:

- 1) The candidate withdraws from the post-secondary educational institution.
- 2) The candidate ceases to be an active member of Bethlehem Christian Church.