



Application for Pass the Torch Scholarship/Loan

- Part-time seminary student
- Full-time seminary student

The Pass the Torch scholarship/loans are provided by the Retired Ministers and Spouses of the Great Plains Conference of The United Methodist Church. Since 1991 Scholarships have been given to women and men attending seminary. The retired ministers, their families, and many other persons have seen this need and have given in memory and in honor of a Christian brother or sister. Only the interest from the money is used for scholarship/loans.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT

Applicant's Full Name _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone (____) _____ - _____ Date of birth: Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

E-Mail address _____

If married, please give a brief statement about your family: _____

I have been a member of the United Methodist Church for _____ years.

My home church is _____

Address _____ District _____

My current status in the ministry process is: _____

I graduated from college (or school) _____ Date _____

I am applying for a scholarship for the following school year: _____

Name of seminary _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____

Seminary address _____

I am pursuing a _____ degree.

I have earned _____ credits toward my degree. I have _____ required credits remaining.

During the upcoming year, I am planning to take _____ hours during the fall semester.

During the upcoming year, I am planning to take _____ hours during the spring semester.

Anticipated Graduation Date: _____

Family and Schooling Annual Income

Income From non-church employment \$ _____

Income from church work (part-time or full-time appointment) \$ _____

Scholarship or grant income \$ _____

Spouse's income \$ _____

Other support \$ _____

Total \$ _____

Please share briefly your plans for ministry following graduation from seminary.

I have read the eligibility guidelines for Pass the Torch Scholarship/Loans and have completed the application to the best of my ability.

I plan to return to the Great Plains Conference following my graduation from Seminary and will serve in the Pastoral Ministry under an appointment from the bishop for a period of five years. This ministry may assume many forms, i.e., pastoral ministry or appointment beyond the local church. For the LOAN to become a full SCHOLARSHIP, five years of ministry must be completed under the bishop's appointment following seminary graduation.

Maximum scholarship for Full Time Seminary Student is \$1,000 per year

Applicant's Signature _____ **Date** _____

Applicant's Printed Name _____

The **deadline for receiving applications is July 15**. Please return the completed application to the Rev. Gary Beach at gbeach@greatplainsumc.org.

Eligibility Guidelines for **Pass the Torch Scholarship/Loan**

- A. The applicant must have been a full member of the United Methodist Church for at least one year.
- B. The scholarship is limited to a seminary student who:
- (a) Is from the Great Plains Conference
 - (b) Is a certified candidate for ministry by District or Conference Board or Ordained Ministry.
 - (c) Is enrolled in seminary as a full time or part time degree candidate in a seminary approved by the University Senate of the United Methodist Church.
- C. Scholarship applications for college, undergraduate study or post graduate study beyond seminary will not be considered.
- D. Preference will be made for a student attending a United Methodist seminary over a non-United Methodist Seminary and Candidates from or serving church in the Great Plains Conference. The committee reserves the right to take unusual circumstances into account if such are present when a final decision is made.
- E. The scholarship will be for one year only. To be considered for any subsequent years, another application must be submitted.
- F. The scholarship is a grant, but will become **identified by the committee as a loan if:**
- (a) The recipient does not return to the Great Plains Conference following graduation from seminary.**
 - (b) The recipient does not serve a minimum of five years in the pastoral ministry in the Great Plains Conference.**
 - (c) The recipient withdraws from seminary.**
- In the event that a situation described in (a), (b), or (c) occurs, the amount of the scholarship must be repaid on a monthly basis with interest at 3% as established by the scholarship committee. Repayment must begin no later than six months after default on the scholarship agreement. After two notices that the scholarship was now a loan and no response has been received a letter will be sent to the Bishop and District Superintendent where they are serving to be placed in that minister's file.**
- G. Financial need will be among the criteria for granting the scholarship. If the applicant is the recipient of other scholarship aid, that also becomes a factor in granting the scholarship.
- H. Payment of the scholarship will be made directly to the seminary where the student is enrolled.
- I. This fund will be under the direction and control of the Pass the Torch Committee. The Committee will make any final decision on the awarding of the scholarship to an applicant. The Committee may seek advice and counsel of the Bishop and Appointive Cabinet or any other group or agency to help with any final decisions if it so chooses.
- J. If any other pertinent factors arise as the program develops, the Pass the Torch Committee reserves the right to change or amend or adapt the program to meet such need as it may choose.