

SCRIPT FOR UNITED METHODIST COLLEGE/SCHOLARSHIP VIDEO

5 minutes

Are you a high school senior or a college student who is active in a United Methodist Church? Or do you have high school seniors or college students in your congregation? Then watch this video to learn about United Methodist colleges, scholarships and loans.

John Wesley, founder of Methodism, put a high value on education. Through our early history, United Methodists were known for starting schools and institutions of higher education and today we continue to support them. Do you know that there are five United Methodist related institutions in Pennsylvania – two of them in Susquehanna Conference. They are: Dickinson College in Carlisle and Lycoming College in Williamsport. Also nearby are Lebanon Valley College in Annville and Albright College in Reading. The other UM college Allegheny College, is in western Pennsylvania. There are many other UM institutions across the United States. For a complete list, go to www.gbhem.org at the link shown on the screen:
www.gbhem.org/education/united-methodist-church-affiliated-institutions

Scholarship funds are available for United Methodist students, especially if you attend a United Methodist related institution and are studying toward a ministry related career. However, there are also some scholarships for those attending any accredited public or private college in any major who are very active in their church, district or conference and who have high academic credentials.

How do you apply for U M scholarships? Through an online application process. The application can be found online at www.gbhem.org – that stands for General Board of Higher Education and Ministry. This United Methodist general agency handles scholarship and loan applications for United Methodist students across the United States. For next fall's scholarships, the opening date for students to apply online is January 3, 2017. The deadline is March 1. Needed materials include essays, references, transcripts and resume, so do not wait until March 1 to start the process!

Scholarship criteria include that applicants must be active, full members of The United Methodist Church for at least one year. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale, and must be full-time students. The more involvement you have in the United Methodist Church the better and some scholarships require a higher GPA.

Susquehanna Conference students who are attending or will attend United Methodist colleges should indicate on the application that they are interested in a Conference Merit Scholarship. These come from money raised in our conference through the Student Day Offering which is taken in local churches in November.

GBHEM administers over 50 scholarship programs with varied criteria, so surf their website and find out what you might qualify for. Some are for undergraduate students, and some are for graduate or seminary students. The Karen Layman Gift of Hope Scholarship is available to undergrad students who attend any accredited public or private colleges, so even if your college is not United Methodist, you should still apply.

Loans of up to \$5,000 a year for a maximum total loan of \$20,000 are also offered to United Methodist students who meet certain criteria. Again, use the GBHEM.org website to apply for loans.

If you have more questions, feel free to contact me at lbender@susumc.org

Blessings to you as you pursue higher education!