

EXCELLENCE IN CLERGY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP FUNDING PARTNER AGREEMENT

General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of The United Methodist Church, a Tennessee nonprofit corporation, located at 1908 Grand Avenue, Nashville, Tennessee 37212 (“GBHEM”) and [Scholarship Partner Organization] located at [Organization Address] (“Scholarship Partner”) (sometimes referred to herein individually and collectively as a “Party” or the “Parties”), enter into this Scholarship Service Agreement (the “Agreement”) effective on the date signed page 2 (the “Effective Date”).

Background and Purpose

GBHEM is the United Methodist Church agency that prepares and assists persons in fulfilling their ministry in Christ in several special ministries, ordained and diaconal and, accordingly, among other things, offers scholarships to United Methodist students pursuing undergraduate and graduate degrees. In 2017, GBHEM launched a debt-avoidance scholarship collaboration program, known as the Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship Program (“Scholarship Program”) as part of the United Methodist Church’s Initiative to Address Economic Challenges Facing Pastoral Leaders. The Scholarship Program was inspired, in part, by a \$1,000,000 grant awarded to Wespath in 2016 by the Lily Endowment, Inc. A requirement under the Scholarship Program is that scholarship recipients must participate in the EY Financial Planning Services offered by Wespath, including meeting with a financial counselor. While they are not parties to this Agreement, Wespath and the National Association of United Methodist Foundations collaborated with GBHEM to launch this Scholarship Program and other financial literacy efforts.

The purpose of the Scholarship Program is to foster collaboration between United Methodist organizations to support future clergy by reducing or eliminating educational debt and building upon financial acumen. Certain meritorious seminarians will receive a \$3,500 scholarship from GBHEM in addition to other support from United Methodist foundations, annual conferences and seminaries. The purpose of this Agreement is to set forth the funding and other obligations to which GBHEM and Scholarship Partner agree to below to support the Scholarship Program.

Agreement

In consideration of the covenants contained herein and for good and valuable consideration, the receipt and adequacy of which are hereby acknowledged, GBHEM and Scholarship Partner incorporate the foregoing Background and Purpose and further agree as follows:

1. Scholarship Partner Obligations: Scholarship Partner agrees to:
 - a. fund agreed on number and amount of individual scholarships (minimum \$2,500) as indicated in the application, under the Scholarship Program during the term of the Agreement (“Funding Amount”);
 - b. promote the scholarship opportunity to potential students who are eligible for the scholarships offered by Scholarship Partner;
 - c. review, analyze and decide to whom the scholarships will be awarded based on merit of scholarship applicants after confirming that they meet the criteria identified below in Section 5;
 - d. submit final award decision to GBHEM by the required date; and
 - e. send the Funding Amount to GBHEM no later than September 1st at GBHEM, Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship, PO Box 440101, Nashville, Tennessee 37244-0102.

2. GBHEM Support Obligations: GBHEM agrees to:
 - a. provide a general online application to applicants to use in the Scholarship Program;
 - b. provide customer service support to all applicants via email and telephone calls relating to technical and/or programmatic inquiries;
 - c. screen and inform Scholarship Partner whether applicants meet the established minimum criteria in Section 5 below;
 - d. set up review portals for the Scholarship Partner so that they can rank applicants and report scholarship decisions to GBHEM;
 - e. notify applicants of award decisions made by Scholarship Partner and recognize Scholarship Partner in award letter and reporting on scholarships awarded;
 - f. monitor recipients EY Financial Services or Saving Grace curriculum completion;
 - g. disburse the scholarship amount awarded to the scholarship recipient’s school; and
 - h. provide a final report to Scholarship Partner, which will include, among other things, the names of scholarship recipients, amounts awarded to each recipient (including the amount provided by each partner) and the names of the applicable church, conference, and school related to each scholarship recipient.

3. GBHEM Scholarship Awards: GBHEM may, in its sole discretion, award \$3,500 to Scholarship Partner’s scholarship recipients. While GBHEM is committed to providing \$3,500 scholarships to meritorious seminarians under the Scholarship Program, there is no guarantee under this Agreement that any or all the scholarship recipients selected by Scholarship Partner will receive this additional scholarship from GBHEM.
4. Term. The term of this Agreement is for one year starting with the Effective Date of the Agreement
5. Minimum Criteria for Scholarship Candidates: The parties agree that the following criteria must be met by scholarship applicants to be considered for a scholarship under the Scholarship Program. Applicant must:
 - a. a professing United Methodist and active in a local United Methodist Church (a “United Methodist”);
 - b. a United Methodist pursuing or certified candidate for ministry (deacon or elder);
 - c. a full-time student enrolled and pursuing a Master of Divinity degree at one of the United Methodist Seminaries/Schools of theology located in the United States;
 - d. able to demonstrate, based on criteria established by GBHEM, financial need and how this scholarship will help avoid additional student loans;
 - e. have an approval and recommendation by the Scholarship Partner’s review committee; and
 - f. agree to (and then) participate in a financial literacy program with EY through Wespath, or a Saving Grace curriculum to receive total funding from GBHEM.
6. Application Promotion. Both parties agree to promote the Scholarship Program by directing students to the following web page between January 6, 2024 and March 13, 2025. Students will be able to apply by choosing “Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship” on the first page of the application. Applicants must reapply each year for the opportunity to obtain additional funding.
7. General Provisions.
 - a. Notice. Any notice required under this Agreement may be given by email and is effective when sent to each Party’s primary contact for this Agreement unless the sender receives a delivery failure notification, indicating that the email has not been delivered to the recipient. Any notice required under this Agreement must be sent via email to:

GBHEM Primary Contact

Name: Allyson Potts Title: Executive Director Scholarship Engagement
 Email: apotts@gbhem.org Phone: 615-340-7343

Scholarship Partner Primary Contact is detailed on the Application for Participating in Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship Program

Both parties agree to provide updated information to the other party if such information changes.

- b. No Assignment. No Party may assign this Agreement, or any rights or obligations hereunder, without the prior written consent of the other Party.
- c. Amendments. This Agreement may be amended at any time but only by a written agreement signed by both parties.
- d. Entire Agreement. This Agreement sets forth the entire understanding of the Parties as to the subject matter it addresses and supersedes all previous representations, understandings or agreements, whether written or oral, by and between the Parties with respect to its subject matter.

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH (“GBHEM”)

By: Karen Ward _____ Printed Name : Karen Ward Title: Chief Administrative Officer

“SCHOLARSHIP PARTNER ORGANIZATION”: _____

Organization Address: _____

By: _____ Effective Date: _____

Printed Name: _____ Title: _____

**General Board of Higher Education and Ministry's ("GBHEM")
2025 Application for Participating in Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship Program**

The purpose of this Scholarship Program is to foster collaboration between United Methodist organizations to support future clergy by reducing or eliminating educational debt and building upon financial acumen. Certain meritorious seminarians will receive a **\$3,500** scholarship from GBHEM in addition to other support from United Methodist foundations, annual conferences and seminaries. The purpose of this Application is to express your organization's interest in participating in the Scholarship Program and to provide GBHEM with the information needed to assist your organization in doing so. Please fill out all of the fields below completely.

Organizational Scholarship Partner Primary Contact Information

Name of Organization	
Address of Organization	
Name of Contact Person at Organization	
Title of Contact Person at Organization	
Email/Phone of Contact Person at Organization	

Funding Amounts and Number of Students to be Awarded by Your Organization

Number of students to receive scholarships from your organization year (awarded in the Fall term)	#
Amount of each student's individual scholarship award by your organization (minimum \$2,500 individual awards may be more)	\$

Name Recognition

Please identify the way in which your organization would like to be identified in the award letter sent to scholarship recipients (i.e., ABC Annual Conference, ABC Annual Conference MET Scholarship; ABC Foundation; ABC Foundation Smith Scholarship, etc.):

Scholarship Review Committee

Each partner organization may have between 1 and 5 individuals review and select their scholarship recipients. The review/selection will be completed online through a portal sent by GBHEM. Please identify the Committee below.

	Name and Title	Email	Phone
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			

Please return this completed application and signed scholarship funding agreement to GBHEM Scholarships contacts:
Allyson Potts apotts@gbhem.org 615-340-7343 and Marcie Bigord mbigord@gbhem.org 615-340-7338

Promote the Scholarship Program by directing students to the following web page

www.gbhem.org/scholarshipapplication **between January 6, 2024 and March 13, 2025.** Students will be able to apply by choosing "Excellence in Clergy Leadership Scholarship" on the first page of the application. Applicants must reapply each year for the opportunity to obtain additional funding.