



Dear Scholarship Applicant:

The First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale Scholarship Program was formally established in 1974 by Jimmie Lee Byal, Cotton Clinton, Harold Cox, and Marjean Packard. This program was created to provide financial support to First Presbyterian Church students who had a dream to pursue an undergraduate education. With the continuing financial support of its members and friends, First Presbyterian Church is able to provide students with scholarship assistance for full-time undergraduate studies as well as graduate students seeking a degree in professional fields of Christian Service. This packet provides you with the application forms needed to apply for a First Presbyterian Church scholarship.

If you would like to apply for a First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale scholarship, please complete the enclosed application and return it, along with all documentation, to:

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale
Attn: Scholarship Committee
401 SE 15th Avenue
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301
scholarship@firstpres.cc
954-462-6200
954-462-6248 (fax)

Scholarship awards are made on an annual basis. Applicants must reapply each academic year. **The deadline for submitting a completed application for the 2017-2018 academic year is 5pm on March 1st.** Please be assured that the information you submit will be kept confidential. Please see the attached policies and directions for further information. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.

Scholarship awards are offered to eligible undergraduate college students seeking a Bachelor's degree. Consideration for a scholarship award will include evaluation of the candidate's participation in the activities offered at First Presbyterian Church, financial need, academic standing, as well as other school, work, and community activities.

We appreciate your interest in the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Program. If you have any questions, or need further information, please contact the Scholarship Committee at scholarship@firstpres.cc.

Sincerely,
Scholarship Committee
First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale

SEMINARY/GRADUATE STUDENT LOAN APPLICATION 2017-2018

First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale Scholarship Program Information

Policy for funding Seminary and Graduate Students in Christian Service

1. **Purpose:** First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale is committed to encouraging our members to enter into full-time Christian ministry. In addition to our spiritual support, we also wish to provide the opportunity for financial assistance to any active First Presbyterian Church student who is a member studying at an accredited and approved Presbyterian theological school for a **three-year** Master of Divinity degree or a graduate degree in a field of Christian Service (Christian Education, Christian Music, Christian Counseling, etc.). Additional years will not be funded.

2. **Qualification Requirements for Seminary Students:** All members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale who are either under the care of Presbytery or in the formal process of coming under the care of Presbytery (inquirer process) are eligible to apply to receive financial assistance to pay tuition for a **three-year** degree at an accredited and approved Presbyterian theological seminary. The funds will be taken from those named scholarships stating preference for a recipient pursuing a degree in theology, with a focus in Christian ministry. The amount loaned to these graduate students will be based on student's church involvement, financial need, and available funding. The Scholarship Committee will determine merit and amount, pending Session approval.

3. **Qualification Requirements for Graduate Students:** Students in Fields of Christian Service (namely, Christian Education, Christian Music, Christian Counseling, etc.) are eligible to apply for financial assistance in the form of loans that may be forgiven if the student works in their chosen field (see the application for details). The funds will be taken from those named scholarships stating preference for a recipient pursuing Christian services. The amount loaned to these graduate students will be based on student's church involvement, financial need, and available funding. The Scholarship Committee will determine merit and amount, pending Session approval.

4. **Members/Recipient's Obligations:**

a. Submit a copy of your college diploma, along with official transcripts from all schools attended.

b. Submit an acceptance letter from your seminary/graduate school, along with the graduate degree program description, degree program requirements and course paradigm (which courses will be taken each semester of each year)

c. Submit an essay describing your call to the ministry and future plans.

d. Submit the signed Seminary Loan Application Form. Please note that you must sign the statement stating that you understand this is a loan and that the loan may be forgiven once you have worked in an area of Christian service, approved by the Scholarship Committee, for a

specific period of time (i.e. a one year loan may be forgiven with one year of Christian service). If your seminary education is not completed within the time period you identified in your application, or at the conclusion of any extensions to this time period that may be granted by the Scholarship Committee, you will be required to repay the loan in full to First Presbyterian Church within two years from the date you left seminary. Recipients will be issued a 1099 for all loans that are forgiven. If any of the loan forgiveness conditions are not satisfied, the full amount of the accumulated loans shall be due and payable to the Church. The full amount of the accumulated loans shall be calculated by adding together the loan amounts for the original and all subsequent loan agreements. The loan recipient and the Church may set up a repayment schedule. The payments of interest and principal will be calculated and applied using a standard amortization schedule. Any amounts received by the Church from loan repayment will be deposited into the scholarship funds from which they came.

e. Submit all pages of the FAFSA form and/or SAR form. More detailed information about this is on the application form.

f. Submit two letters of reference from persons in church ministry, as well as a letter of reference from the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church.

g. All recipients receiving financial assistance shall maintain their church membership and worship with First Presbyterian Church whenever possible.

h. All recipients shall be and remain full-time students while under the financial care, guidance and mentoring of this church. Any exception to this requirement shall require a recommendation from the Scholarship Committee and approval by the Session.

i. All seminary students under the care of Presbytery shall copy the Scholarship Committee chairperson and the Senior Pastor with all correspondence between the recipient and Presbytery, particularly as it relates to the recipient's annual Presbytery reviews and grades.

j. All recipients shall furnish, within ten days of publication, the Scholarship chairperson a copy of their most recently published grades.

k. All recipients are encouraged to seek out and apply for all available and applicable scholarships to further their education and to supply the scholarship chairperson with a copy of any application made and the response received.

l. All recipients shall correspond with their Mentor from the Scholarship Committee. This correspondence shall at the least inform the committee of the recipient's progress, needs and scholastic status and preferably serve as a vehicle, which will enable the committee to understand fully the recipient's needs so as to provide spiritual and emotional support in addition to the expected financial support.

m. Students who have received a graduate or seminary loan(s) are ineligible to receive a loan for an additional degree until all previous loan commitments have been completed in entirety

and the loan(s) for the previous degree has/have been forgiven.

5. Important Considerations:

- a. Applications and supporting documents for seminary students must be submitted to the Scholarship Committee by February 1st or September 1st. There are no exceptions to the deadlines. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered.
- b. The seminary applicant must be an active First Presbyterian Church member for at least three years at the time of application, unless otherwise recommended by the Senior Pastor or an Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church.
- c. The funds will be taken from the named scholarships stating preference for a recipient pursuing Christian services.
- d. It is necessary to re-apply for the loan by the designated deadline each year. Incomplete and/or late applications will not be considered. Official transcripts, as well as all required supporting documents must always be included with each application.
- e. The applicant must be interviewed by the Scholarship Committee annually.

Other Considerations

- Scholarship checks are payable to the school, not the student. Checks will be mailed to the student's home address. Checks are processed in July and January. It is the recipient's obligation to see that the check is cashed within 90 days of issuance. A charge of \$100.00 may be deducted from any scholarship check that requires reissuing due to a student's failure to communicate loss of check, change of school, change of address, failure to meet the deadlines, etc.

Upon graduation, recipients are strongly encouraged to contribute to this scholarship program so that others may receive like benefits.

Please
attach
picture

**First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale
SEMINARY/GRADUATE STUDENT LOAN APPLICATION
2017-2018**

(Please **PRINT** Legibly)

Personal Information

Student Name: _____

Preferred Name: _____

Home Address: _____
City State Zip

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

Church Membership Information

Are you a Member of this Church? Yes, since (year) _____ No _____

How long have you been attending this Church? _____

Are you a member of another Church? _____

Name of Church _____

Your Church Attendance: Most Every Sunday Once or Twice Monthly Quarterly
(on average) Special Occasions Never

Please initial the following statement, if correct:

I am applying for a *loan* from First Presbyterian Church to help me with the cost of my seminary/graduate education. _____

Seminary/Graduate School Information

Name of School: _____ City/State: _____

Fall 2017 Classification (please circle): 1st Year 2nd Year 3rd Year Other

Expected Graduation Date: _____

Major or Course of Study: _____

Credit Hours Required for Graduation: _____ Credit Hours Completed Thus Far: _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

Personal Address at Seminary/Graduate School:

City

State

Zip

Other Information

Are you employed while in Seminary/Graduate School? Yes No

If so, where? _____

How many hours per week do you work? _____

Seminary/Graduate Students are encouraged to seek and apply for available and application scholarships. Please list any additional sources of income, financial aid, and scholarships you anticipate for the coming year:

Statement of Affirmation and Signature

I am applying for a First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale Loan for the 2017-2018 Academic Year. I affirm that all information and statements provided by me in this application are true and correct. I understand that failure to provide a complete application, including all requested materials and documentation, by the designated application deadline will disqualify me from further consideration for a 2017-18 loan. Moreover, I understand that any false or misleading information and/or statements will disqualify me from further consideration for a loan. I understand that my application materials will be held confidential by the First Presbyterian Church Scholarship Committee. I also consent that my picture may be taken and used for any purpose deemed necessary to promote the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale Scholarship Program.

By signing this Application, you are saying that you understand that this is a loan application and that this loan may be forgiven once you have worked in an area of Christian service, *approved by the Scholarship Committee*, for a specific period of time. Ex. A one year loan may be forgiven with one year of Christian service in an *approved church/business*. *Required coursework (i.e. a practicum or internship) does not count towards your loan forgiveness.* If your seminary education is not completed within the time period you identified in your application, or at the conclusion of any extensions to this time period that may be granted, you will be required to repay the loan in full to First Presbyterian Church within two years from the date you left seminary. Upon receipt of a Seminary Loan, you will be required to sign a Seminary Loan Agreement.

Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Comments / Special Circumstances

All applicants are asked to note here anything else you want the committee to know in considering your scholarship application.

Please include employment, activities, goals and aspirations.

(Please use additional paper if needed.)

Application Checklist

Have you remembered to:

- √ _____ Complete the **entire** application

- √ _____ Sign the application

- √ _____ Attach a picture

- √ _____ Attach a copy of your college diploma, along with official transcripts from all schools attended

- √ _____ Attach an acceptance letter from your seminary/graduate school, along with the graduate degree program description, degree program requirements, and course paradigm

- √ _____ Attach an essay describing your call to the ministry and future plans

- √ _____ Submit the FAFSA or SAR.

- √ _____ Submit two letters of reference from persons in church ministry, as well as a letter of reference from the Senior Pastor of First Presbyterian Church

- √ _____ Turn in the **completed application plus all required materials** by **5:00pm on either February 1, 2017 or 5:00pm September 1, 2017.**