Seminary Scholarship Funds Available
For West Virginia Candidates for Ordained Ministry

Ministerial Education Fund (MEF)
The purpose of the Ministerial Education Fund (MEF) is to assist in providing seminary training that leads
to ordination and ministerial service in the West Virginia Conference. Recipients of funds must be
**certified candidates¹** or **licensed local pastors²** within the West Virginia Conference.

Any student working toward ordination as deacon or elder can qualify for an MEF grant, as long as they
are enrolled in an approved seminary, working toward a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree, a master’s
degree, or the Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS). A list of University Senate approved
seminaries is provided by the General Board of Higher Education & Ministry (GBHEM). Access the list
by entering https://www.gbhem.org/education/seminary/approved-seminaries or by clicking here. For
more information on course requirements, see the 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 324.4.

The MEF grants $250 per credit hour, up to $6,000 per year. The maximum amount a person in a
seminary degree program may receive from the fund is $24,000 for their seminary education.

The MEF application may be found under “Seminary Education Resources” on our website by
clicking here. Read the guidelines carefully, taking note of all deadlines for submission and reporting.

**MEF DEADLINE IS JULY 1**—Applications are due by July 1 each year and are approved for the entire
year. Transcripts from fall coursework are required prior to scholarship payment to seminaries for the
spring term. All applicants must **re-apply by July 1 each year** to be considered to receive funds in the
ensuing year.

**Additional scholarship options:**

- The **WV United Methodist Foundation** manages scholarship funds which are reviewed yearly for
our seminary students. When you complete an MEF application, you indicate your interest in
also being considered for additional scholarships through the Foundation.

- The **GBHEM** provides many financial resources for United Methodist students. Check out these
options at https://www.gbhem.org/loans-and-scholarships or click here. GBHEM also offers
scholarships for students taking Basic Graduate Theological Studies (BGTS) requirements.

- The **Laymen’s Foundation of the WV Conference United Methodist Men** maintains a scholarship
fund for students (male & female) pursuing ordained ministry. Interested students should write a
letter explaining their current educational path & ministry goal to the **Hal Burke Award**, c/o the WV
Foundation, PO Box 3811, Charleston, WV 25338. Annual deadline is August 15.

¹ Applicants must have completed the candidacy process and be certified by their District Committee on Ministry.
² Having completed candidacy, applicants may be licensed as local pastors, serving an appointment while attending
seminary.

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