



Board of Ordained Ministry

West Virginia Conference

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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 candidates**¹ or **licensed local pastors**² 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 with this link <https://www.gbhem.org/students/seminary/list-of-approved-seminaries/>. For more information on course requirements, see the 2016 Book of Discipline, paragraph 324.4.

The MEF grants \$250 per credit hour. 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 Information" on our website at <https://www.wvumc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/MEF-Grant-Application-rev-4.2021.pdf>. 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-scholarships/>. 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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