

CONFERENCE MERIT AWARD PROGRAM

GENERAL BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY
THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
OFFICE OF LOANS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Merit awards are annual conference administered awards to United Methodist students attending United Methodist colleges or universities. The awards are funded by a rebate to the annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry from the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry through its Office of Loans and Scholarships. Funds rebated to each Annual Conference will be 10% of the Student Day Offering receipts from that Annual Conference.

To qualify for a rebate, an annual conference shall first remit all monies received as Student Day Offering to the General Council on Finance and Administration, as established by the Discipline. No part of the offering may be retained in the annual conference prior to this remittance. The rebate check is sent to the Conference Treasurer from the Office of Loans and Scholarships in the spring of each year.

GUIDELINES

The annual conference board of higher education and campus ministry shall dispense the Merit Awards in accord with these guidelines and others which they may set.

1. Please fill out the **Conference Merit Award application** and mail to: MO Annual Conference c/o Jenny Gragg, 3601 Amron Ct, Columbia, MO 65202. Deadline for applications: July 1, 2011
2. Awards are to United Methodist students who are enrolled in a full-time degree program at an institution of higher education recognized as United Methodist by the University Senate. It shall not be required that the institution be within the bounds of the annual conference from which the award originates.
3. Awards are from "merit", but it should be understood that merit can be in terms of academic scholarship, church involvement, financial need, special vocational preparation for ministry or other service, or a combination of these factors as may be determined by the annual conference board.
4. An applicant for a Merit Award shall be nominated by a local church (pastor and/or chairperson of higher education and campus ministry),
 - a. Nominations shall be sent to the **MO Annual Conference** to the address stated above on the application form;
 - b. A local church may nominate one student annually;
 - c. Included with the application shall be a statement from the sponsoring church describing the student's involvement in church, school, community or other organizations, and why the nominee merits this special recognition.
5. Awards shall be made by the annual conference board on the basis of an academic year.
6. Awards may be made to the students as part of that student's or his/her parent's contribution to the cost of education. Efforts should be made to insure that the award payment will not displace any other aid to which the student may be entitled.
7. Awards shall be for no more the \$1,000 per annum. It is suggested that the annual conference board set a minimum base of \$500.00.
8. Annual conference boards of higher education and campus ministry may establish award presentation procedures and provide for media coverage of their Conference Merit Award Program and shall submit a list of recipient(s) to the Office of Loans and Scholarships.

***Please submit the Conference Merit Award application and recommendations to:**

**MO Annual Conference
C/o Jenny Gragg
3601 Amron Ct, Columbia, MO 65202
jgragg@moumethodist.org**

Deadline for applications: July 1, 2011