



# Firebrand Society

Methodist Foundation of Ohio

## Application Process

The Firebrand Society Scholarships are provided by the Methodist Foundation of Ohio. The scholarships are intended to encourage highly motivated and creative seminary students to come to the East Ohio Conference of the United Methodist Church, upon graduation, to enter into careers of parish ministry. Recipients must be on track for ordination as a full elder by age 35.

While the Foundation requires no legal commitment, it is expected that all recipients will commit to at least three years in parish ministry in the East Ohio Conference following graduation from seminary.

The scholarship will be in the amount of up to \$10,000 per year for up to three years. (A candidate, who is already a seminary student, may apply for the scholarship for the remaining years of the candidate's seminary training). In addition, the scholarship may retire some or all of the recipient's student loan debt following seminary graduation.

A scholarship may be terminated for any of the following circumstances:

1. The student fails to maintain a GPA of 3.3 (based upon a 4.0 scale) or equivalent level of academic achievement in seminary courses;
2. The student fails to become an East Ohio Conference certified candidate for ordained ministry as an elder by the end of the first academic year; or
3. The student decides not to pursue a career in parish ministry or desires to work for a conference other than the East Ohio Conference.

It is expected that the students will, when asked, interact with churches in the East Ohio Conference in appropriate activities designated by the Conference (such as participation in worship or other activities) which will allow the Conference and the students to become acquainted and to help promote the use of these scholarships. (These activities would be arranged so as not to interfere with the students' academic or family schedules). As part of this participation, the student would be expected to provide letters from the Conference or participating churches describing the student's involvement.

There is no formal application form. The applicant should prepare an application which includes all of the information set forth on the attached Required Information sheet. Candidates will be judged upon six general criteria:

1. The description of the applicant's faith journey and call to local church ministry.
2. The applicant's post high school academic record.
3. The applicant's community and/or church service record.
4. The applicant's financial need.
5. The applicant's references.
6. The applicant demonstrates the ability to provide transformative leadership to the East Ohio Conference

Questions may be addressed to the Foundation at the address indicated on the attached sheet. All applications should be submitted not later than April 1, 2021, in order to be eligible for an award for the Fall of 2021.

**Required Information - The Firebrand Society Scholarship**  
**(Submit one copy of this information in written form suitable for copying.)**

1. Personal Information  
Name:  
Address:  
E-Mail:  
Home (or cell) Phone:  
Work Phone:  
Birthdate:  
Local Church Affiliation:  
Current status as a candidate for ministry:  
Year you became a declared candidate for ministry:  
Age at which you expect to graduate from seminary:
2. Describe your educational background (post-secondary education, including institutions, awards, degrees, majors, major GPA, and overall GPA. Include a copy of transcripts for all post-secondary education, including undergraduate as well as any seminary or other graduate work to date.)
3. At which seminary have you been accepted?
4. When do you anticipate graduating? Please identify all other Seminary Scholarships or financial aid you have been awarded.
5. How, and under what circumstances, did you receive your call to serve God as a pastor (100-200 words)? Describe your faith journey and your vision for parish ministry.
6. Please attach a copy of your most recent income tax return to your application. Please also describe your financial need and how this scholarship would assist you.
7. Describe any personal circumstances, if any, which would limit your ability to fully engage in pastoral ministry in the East Ohio Conference.
8. Please provide names and full contact information for three people who have known you at least five years, whom the Scholarship Selection Committee may contact as your personal references. These references should be from clergy or persons familiar with the applicant's gifts for ministry and leadership. Please also include a statement authorizing these persons to release information to the Scholarship Selection Committee.
9. Describe your involvement with church and/or community service since high school.
10. Many applicants will apply for this seminary scholarship. Please comment on why the Selection Committee should select you as the recipient (100-200 words).
11. Applications will be judged on their content; however, in addition to the written material required, applicants are encouraged to demonstrate their abilities through other creative modes of expression. If such materials are provided via other media, the applicant should provide a copy of the media used or appropriate references to the internet or other sources to allow the Scholarship Review Committee to view and evaluate such materials.

**Return by March 1, 2021 to:**  
Brian Sheetz, Executive Director  
The Methodist Foundation of Ohio  
8800 Cleveland Ave, N.W., North Canton, OH, 44720  
(800) 831-3972 ext. 152  
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