

**CONNECTIONAL LAY COUNCIL
THE AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL ZION
CHURCH**



**BISHOP GEORGE JUNIUS LEAKE, III
ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP
GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION**

**Dr. Mary J. Matthews, International President
The Right Reverend Michael A. Frencher, Sr.,
Board of Lay Activities Chairman**

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INTRODUCTION

The Connectional Lay Council (CLC) established the Bishop George Junius Leake, III Scholarship Fund in 1981 under the presidency of Dr. Betty V. Stith. In July 2013 under the presidency of Dr. Yvonne Tracey, the CLC expanded the scholarship's vision and mission by establishing an Endowment Fund with \$50,000. The funds to support the endowment were presented to HTS on July 31, 2013 at the 9th Quadrennial Lay Convention. Students selected to receive the scholarship are designated by Hood Theological Seminary as "Leake Scholars" to be named annually. The scholarship is designed to perpetuate the legacy of Bishop Leake by offering financial assistance to A.M.E. Zion students enrolled at Hood Theological Seminary who are committed to entering into the ordained ministry.

Bishop Leake was a proponent of academic excellence and spiritual growth. He strongly advocated educational preparation for those called to proclaim God's Word and to lead His people to Kingdom building. Therefore, the purpose of the scholarship is to encourage and enable members of the A.M.E. Zion Church to fulfill their calling to the ordained ministry via religious studies.

Bishop Leake was born November 21, 1929 in Wilson, NC. He entered the traveling ministry in 1950. Bishop Leake graduated from Livingstone College in 1957 and received a Masters of Divinity from Hood Theological Seminary in 1960. He was elected to the Episcopacy in May 1972 and died June 15, 1981. Bishop Leake urged the Connectional Lay Council to "make a difference" and it is in that spirit that the scholarship fund was initiated to perpetuate his memory and dedication to Zion Methodism.

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

Eligibility Criteria:

- College or university graduate
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or greater
- Accepted/Enrolled as a full-time student in the M.Div., MTS or DMIN program at Hood Theological Seminary.
- Documentation supporting leadership qualities, volunteer and civic services.
- Member in good standing of the A.M.E. Zion Church.

Number of Awards per semester: One award annually

Application Process:

Applicants must submit the following documents on or before the established deadline:

- Completed Bishop George J. Leake, III Scholarship Application.
- Three (3) letters of recommendation documenting status in local church, leadership qualities, volunteer and civic services.
- Official transcript, bearing college/university/seminary seal
- Acceptance letter to Hood Theological Seminary, new/transfer students only.

- Selection Process: The HTS Director of Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee will review applications and select the finalist.
- Decisions of the director and committee is final.
 - The HTS Director of Financial Aid will notify recipients and the Connectional Lay Council of the scholarship award.
- Recipient Requirements: Recipient must maintain a full-time student status, membership in good standing in the A.M.E. Zion Church and a cumulative GPA of 3.0
- Deadlines: Applications will be accepted:
Fall Semester from July 1st through August 30st
Spring Semester from November 1st through December 31st
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APPLICATION COMPLETION CHECKLIST

- Completed application form, including personal statement.
- Three (3) recommendation forms that have been sealed and signed on the flap of the envelope.
- Official unopened transcript from college/university/seminary with the cumulative GPA listed.
- Acceptance letter from Hood Theological Seminary, if applicable.
- Evidence of financial need from the HTS Financial Aid Department.

Submit all materials together. Type or use black ink to complete application. Blue ink or pencil is not acceptable.

**Send completed application to: Hood Theological Seminary
Attn: Director of Financial Aid
1810 Lutheran Synod Drive
Salisbury, NC 28144**

ACADEMIC AND VOCATION GOAL STATEMENT

Describe below your personal and career plans, including how this award will enhance your ability to attain these goals. DO NOT EXCEED THIS SPACE AND TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY.

I certify that all information contained herein is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge. Submitting false or inaccurate information/claims are subject to forfeiture of award.

Signature _____ **Date** _____

Print Name _____

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PERSONAL REFERENCES – RECOMMENDATION FORM

Include three (3) recommendation forms that have been sealed and signed on the flap of the envelope. These forms should be dated no earlier than 60 days prior to the application process. They should be completed by persons who can attest to your character, interpersonal relationships, academic achievements, ministry, leadership and community involvement; i.e., Current Bishop, Current Presiding Elder, Local Pastor, teachers, community leaders and high school/college administrators.

(Please print or type)

Name of applicant _____
Last First Middle Initial

Please comment on each of the following areas:

1. Length and nature of your relationship with the applicant

2. The applicant's involvement in ministry

3. The applicant's overall effectiveness and potential for ministry

4. Will your church, ministry or organization be supporting the applicant? In what ways (financial, prayers, etc.?)

5. Other comments

6. As you evaluate the applicant's qualifications for this scholarship, please check one of the following:
____ I recommend ____ I recommend with reservation ____ I highly recommend

Signature Date Position

Print name Daytime Phone

Name of Church P.E. District

Street Address City/State/Zip

Annual Conference Episcopal District

Please place your recommendation in envelope, seal and return to the applicant to be submitted with application.