

St. Mark's Episcopal Church

Higher Education & Vocational Program Scholarship Policy and Guidelines

General Principles:

These general principles are to be used for higher education scholarship funds held by St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 60 West Street, Leominster, MA 01453.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide recipients with financial assistance for a higher education or post-secondary vocational training program.

Scholarship awards are not intended to cover the full cost of school for any applicant.

There may be several scholarship awards in any one year depending on the number of applicants.

Scholarship award amounts will be determined by the Vestry annually based on the number of anticipated qualified applicants and available funds. All awards in a year will be of equal value.

In years when there are no eligible applicants, no award will be made, and funds will remain part of the principal of the fund.

There is presently no formal plan for replenishment of the existing scholarship fund; therefore, when the fund is fully disbursed, St. Mark's Episcopal Church will not offer scholarships until such time as funding has been replenished. Donations to the fund are welcome and can be directed to the Rector, Senior Warden or Treasurer of St. Mark's Episcopal Church.

Principles for Awards:

Eligibility for a scholarship requires a minimum of one year of regular attendance at St. Mark's Episcopal Church services and active participation in church ministries, programs, or activities.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church currently has one scholarship fund. This scholarship may be used for any legitimate expense including tuition, room and board, travel, books, fees, etc. associated with attending a full-time higher education program to which the applicant has been formally accepted.

Scholarships may also be awarded to applicants to assist with any legitimate costs associated with a post-graduate vocational training program to which the applicant has been formally accepted. Scholarships may be awarded to first year or returning students.

Past recipients of St. Mark's Higher Education Scholarships are not eligible to apply for additional awards.

Award Criteria:

Applicants must submit a typewritten personal statement or essay (3-page limit), or a visual presentation. Submissions must include a personal profile, a description of the education goals of the applicant, and their motivation or inspiration which lead them to choosing their field of study or vocation. In addition, applicants should describe how they have been involved at St. Mark's Episcopal Church and how their experiences here have impacted their life.

Applicants must have applied to their school of choice and must provide documentation of acceptance before an award is confirmed.

The Vestry may request an interview with the applicant. Applicants will be notified in person, or by telephone, email or letter of their interview date and time. All interviews shall be completed prior to the award determination deadline.

Award Dates:

The application deadline is April 1st.

Award determinations will be made by the Vestry no later than May 1st.

Scholarship awards will be announced and presented to recipients no later than June 1st.