

Ankeny First United Methodist Church Scholarship Application

Ankeny First United Methodist Church is proud to support the educational aspirations of our parishioners through the Scholarship Endowment Fund. This year, \$5,000 in scholarships (ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 each) will be awarded to individuals who are active parishioners of our congregation. These scholarships are intended to assist recipients in pursuing post-secondary education and fostering a foundation for lifelong growth and service.

Application Information

- **Submission Deadline:** March 31, 2026
- **Notification of Decision:** May 1, 2026

Eligibility Requirements

1. **Church Membership:** The applicant must be a parishioner of Ankeny First UMC, membership is not required.
2. **Education Use:** The scholarship is to be used for post-secondary education at an accredited institution during the upcoming academic year (2026-2027/fall-spring).
3. **Academic Standards:**
 - Minimum GPA of 2.0 or equivalent.
 - Applicants with a GED or HiSET exam must submit documentation of completion.
4. **Criteria for Awarding Scholarships:** Scholarships will be granted based on church participation, motivation for learning, and academic ability. A consistent scoring method will be used to award grants.
5. **One-Time Award:** Scholarship recipients are not eligible for future scholarships.
6. **Full and Part-Time Students:** Applicants do not need to carry a full-time course load.
7. **Optional Consideration for Returning Students:** Individuals returning to school to enhance employment opportunities are eligible, provided all criteria are met. However, scholarships cannot be used for workshops or seminars.

Application Requirements

1. **Personal Letter:** A written statement addressing the following:
 - A reflection on your faith journey and its impact on your life.
 - Motivation for learning and academic goals.
 - School activities, achievements, and extracurricular involvement.
 - Financial need/extenuating circumstances you would like the committee to consider.
2. **School Transcript:**
 - Include your most recent transcript.
 - Graduates of Iowa public schools will be given preference.

3. Reference Letters:

- Two letters of reference from unrelated adults.
 - One letter should come from a teacher, school counselor, educator, or employer.
 - One letter should come from an Ankeny First UMC church member, youth mentor, or youth director.

Scholarship Guidelines

1. Scholarship funds can only be sent to the college/university. Checks CANNOT be made out to individuals.
2. It is the student's responsibility to have their school send the Ankeny First UMC office their verification of enrollment. Once that is received, a check will be issued to the college for the amount of the awarded scholarship.

Submission Instructions

Please submit the completed application packet, including all required documents, to Pastor Lana or the church office by **March 31st**. Incomplete or late applications will not be considered. Applications can be submitted:

- Email: lane.williams@ankenyfirst.org
- Dropped off in person at the church office.
- By mail:

Scholarship Committee
Ankeny First United Methodist Church
206 SW Walnut St, Ankeny, IA 50023

Contact Information

For questions or additional details, please contact Pastor Lana at 515-964-4249 or email lane.williams@ankenyfirst.org.

We are honored to support your educational journey and look forward to seeing how God will continue to work through you as you pursue your goals.