

Tither's Scholarship Guidelines

PURPOSE

The primary purpose of this Scholarship is to make possible for children of established United Methodist tithers, whether the children are biological or adopted, the opportunity to attend college or other eligible institutions of higher learning.

The students and parents must be legal residents of Iowa or Nebraska and must be members of a United Methodist congregation in Iowa or Nebraska.

THE DEFINITION OF TITHING

Tithing is a "return to God" of at least 10% of total income received by an individual (or couple if married) given for charitable contributions as defined and regulated by the Internal Revenue Code, but only to the extent at least half of such contributions are to a local United Methodist Church general budget. Other gifts made to charitable institutions are also accepted as "returns to God", but regarding this Scholarship, a minimum of 6% of income should be given through the Methodist Church, preferably, the local church which the parent is a member of. "Total Income" shall mean Adjusted Gross Income plus tax-exempt income plus life insurance proceeds.

PARENTAL ELIGIBILITY

In order to be considered for scholarships from the Fund:

- The parents, or parent, must provide written proof that they have tithed for at least five consecutive years prior to the year in which such a scholarship would begin;
- **Parents will be required to send a signed statement to the effect that the tithing requirements are met with the application and proof will be required.** At a minimum, such proof should consist of federal income tax returns filed for that five-year period, as well as an affidavit from the parents setting forth the total amount of life insurance proceeds received during the past five years;
- The parent or parents must also continue to provide, annually an affidavit setting forth the total amount of life insurance proceeds received during that year for a student to continue to be eligible for such scholarship;
- The parent or parents must have had, at a minimum, an average total income of at least \$15,000 per year for the five tax years prior to the year in which such scholarship would begin;
- In order for a student to continue to be eligible for such scholarship, the parent or parents' tithing must continue and re-computation of the same shall be provided to the Foundation annually during the term of the scholarship;
- The student's parent or parents may not be divorced and must be married to each other;
- If either parent dies and the surviving parent remarries, both the surviving parent and step parent shall be held to these eligibility requirements, except that the step parent shall not be required to have tithed prior to marrying the surviving parent; and,
- If both original parents die after the student has been awarded a scholarship, the student will continue to be eligible as long as all other requirements are met.

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

The **Tither's Scholarship** is awarded annually to a student who:

- Is an active member of a United Methodist congregation in Iowa or Nebraska attending a minimum of 26 worship services per year for at least three years preceding the year in which the scholarship would be awarded as certified by the pastor or pastors of the local church of which he/she is a member;
- The student's cumulative high school grade point average (4.0 scale) must be at least 2.80. In order to remain eligible, the student must maintain a minimum post-secondary cumulative GPA of 2.5 and be a full-time student (as defined by the respective college or other eligible institution of higher learning). Eligibility ends in all events at the end of the year in which the student reaches 25 years of age; and,
- In the event that more students are eligible than funds are available, student with the highest high school grade point average shall receive preference, but those students who have received extra GPA credit because of honors courses shall have their cumulative GPA reduced to make a fair comparison with students from high schools which use a true 4.0 scale.

ELIGIBLE INSTITUTIONS

Scholarships shall be awarded annually to a student or students who will attend or are attending an accredited two or four year college or university in Iowa or Nebraska, or any UM affiliated and accredited institution of higher learning (post-secondary education) in the U.S. Scholarships can be awarded to both undergraduate and graduate students at such institutions.

Tither's Scholarship Guidelines

(continued)

AMOUNT

An annual amount of approximately **\$15,000** will be awarded.

DURATION

Upon application, the scholarship **may** be awarded more than one year to the same recipient, provided that such recipient is diligently pursuing his or her course of study and all other requirements are met.

APPLICATION

Application materials can be obtained by one of the following means:

1. Visiting the Foundation's website at: **www.numf.org**
2. E-mailing the Foundation at: **info@numf.org**
3. Calling the Foundation at: **402-323-8844** or **877-495-5545**
4. Writing to the Foundation at:

Tither's Scholarship

c/o Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
100 W. Fletcher Ave., Ste. 100
Lincoln, NE 68521

AWARDS

Priority in the awarding of funds shall be given equally to students who are members of the following United Methodist Churches before considering other applicants:

- Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, Omaha, NE
- Storm Lake United Methodist Church, Storm Lake, IA

Current recipients will have priority over first-time applicants if they meet the GPA requirements and full-time student requirements.

The student recipient may be awarded funds for actual expenses related only to the following: (1) tuition, (2) fees, (3) books, and (4) equipment deemed necessary for the courses taken (eligible college expenses).

Expenses not covered include transportation, room and board, clothing, previous educational loans, and other expenses not related to the academic pursuit.

The Nebraska United Methodist Foundation will notify the scholarship recipient by **August 15, of the current year**. Payment from the Fund shall be made to the college where the eligible student is enrolled.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Announcements will be made via the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation's website, E-Newsletter and through the GP Connect. Announcements regarding Iowa churches will be made via the Iowa United Methodist Foundation. Individual letters will be sent to Hanscom Park United Methodist Church, Omaha, NE and Storm Lake United Methodist Church, Storm Lake, IA on an annual basis.

DEADLINE

Student applications and financial eligibility information from the parents must be received at the Foundation office in Lincoln, NE by **June 30, of the current year**.



Tither's Scholarship Application

After careful review of the Tither's Scholarship Guidelines, please check that the following documents are included.

- Application Form
- Current academic transcript
- Certification by pastor that applicant has attended a minimum of 26 worship services per year for the last three years
- Financial eligibility information from the parents regarding tithing history.*

*At a minimum, financial eligibility information should consist of federal income tax returns filed for that five-year period, specifically Page 1 of Form 1040 and Schedule A if you Itemize.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name		Last Name		
Address		City	State	Zip Code
Phone Number	Email Address			Date of Birth

GENERAL INFORMATION

YES NO

- Are you an active member of a Nebraska or Iowa United Methodist Church? YES NO
If yes, which church? _____
- Have you attended a minimum of 26 worship services **per year** for at least three years? YES NO

Will you be a: Full-time student Part-time student

New student Continuing student Returning student from Inactive Status

EDUCATION:

Name & Location required for all. Please include <u>full address</u> of current school.	Start Date	Graduation Date (or expected date)	Cumulative GPA
High School			
College			
Seminary (if applicable)			

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY: Please include the previous 5 years; use a separate sheet of paper if needed.

Date: Month & Year	Name of Employer	Salary	Job Title	Duties
From				
To				
From				
To				
From				
To				

FINANCIAL INFORMATION: Please list other scholarships, grants-in-aid, and/or financial assistance you are now receiving or for which you have made application.

Type of Financial Aid	Source	Amount	Check if Received	Check if In Application

Signature of Applicant

Date

Application and supporting documentation must be returned to the Nebraska United Methodist Foundation and postmarked by: **June 30th**

Mail to the following address:
 Nebraska United Methodist Foundation
 100 W Fletcher Ave Ste 100
 Lincoln, NE 68521