

Scholarship Ministry Guidelines

1. Financial need should be first priority. Particular attention should be paid to family social club memberships, homes, cars, alimony, child support, and investments. All of this information should be supplied in the application.
2. Each year, all applicants will have to submit a new financial statement. The Committee will study each applicant and base his or her decision according to need. For this reason, each recipient will not automatically be eligible for continuance of the scholarship, nor will they automatically receive the same amount as they had in the past. The reason for this change is that we realize financial situations change from year to year, and that recipients may have been granted other scholarship monies.
3. It is imperative that applicants report any scholarships awarded to them after the date of their application. All applicants will be required to submit this information before the time of the first tuition check.
4. Should the situation occur where none of the applicants have a legitimate financial need, the Scholarship Ministry will base their decision on scholastic merit, leadership, and Christian commitment. However, this will be a one-time scholarship grant and not necessarily a continuing scholarship.
5. Because emphasis is focused on financial need, scholarships will be awarded in varying amounts each year.
6. It is the responsibility of each scholarship recipient to complete and return a Renewal Scholarship Application prior to the deadline each year, should he/she desire to continue their scholarship; otherwise the scholarship will be discontinued.

First Presbyterian Church
1621 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, North Carolina

The Earl & Mary Jackson,
John W. Parks, Sr.,
Elizabeth W. Robinson, and
James G. Stuart
Scholarship Fund



First Presbyterian Church
1621 E. Garrison Blvd.
Gastonia, North Carolina
704.864.2651
www.fpcgastonia.org

History and Purpose

The [Earl & Mary Jackson Scholarship](#) was established in 2013 through the estate of Mr. Jackson. His wish was to provide financial support for members seeking secondary education with preference given to those attending undergraduate school at Davidson College.

The [John W. Parks, Sr. Memorial Scholarship](#) was established in 1978. The intent of this fund is to provide scholarship funds to needy students of First Presbyterian Church.

The [Elizabeth W. Robinson Scholarship](#) was established in 1981 through the estate of Mrs. Robinson. Her wish was to provide financial support for members of the First Presbyterian Church seeking higher education.

The [James G. Stuart Scholarship](#) was established in 1984 by Mrs. Lucia Mercer. This scholarship seeks to honor Dr. Stuart for his 19 years of ministry to this congregation from 1969 - 1988.

These scholarships are administered and awarded by the Scholarship Ministry appointed and elected by the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia, NC.

Who May Apply?

Scholarships are expressly intended for members of First Presbyterian Church. Awards are based upon financial need; however, merit, academics, Christian character, and the record of service within the church are taken into consideration during the review of applications.

The scholarships are intended to supplement the students' costs. Historically the awards have never been a major source of support for a student. Please be aware some very meritorious candidates may not receive an award because of the discrepancy between their financial means and that of other applicants.

How to Apply?

Scholarship applications are available from the Business Office of the church.

Completed applications must be received by the stated deadline in order to be considered. All applications and information therein are strictly confidential.

Awards are typically designated in the spring for the following school year. Recipients are notified by letter from the Business Office.

Required Reports

The following are items that must be submitted with the scholarship application:

- A photograph of the student
- Letter from the principal or faculty member endorsing candidacy of the student
- Transcript of grades
- A personal statement of ambition and explanation of need, not more than one page in length, in the student's handwriting

All recipients are required to submit a letter of acknowledgment to the Scholarship Ministry in addition to a progress report prior to December 31.

For further information, please contact the Business Office at 704.864.2651.