

**Graduating Senior  
Application**

First Presbyterian Church  
1111 5th Avenue North  
Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501  
Phone: 515-576-2091 Fax: 515-576-4886 E-mail: mail@firstpresfd.org  
Rev. Paul Masters, Lead Pastor  
Chris Helton, Executive Pastor

Dear Friends,

We are pleased you have decided to apply for a scholarship. The Presbyterian Church believes education is important, and we are glad to be a part of so many people's lives in this way. We are the recipients of generous church members who have given so much so that others may receive. To be the recipient of a scholarship is a great privilege.

The scholarships offered at the First Presbyterian Church have been applied for by many students. We cannot promise that each person who applies will receive a scholarship: it is incorrect to assume that a scholarship is guaranteed because one is a church member. The amounts awarded vary due to the money available each year and the nature of the criteria of the scholarship.

The Scholarship Committee has a difficult choice of selecting those who should receive the awards. There are many qualified applicants; the decision is based on the information you provide on the application form.

The following is required to ensure that your application will be considered for the various scholarships:

1. Application forms will be available in the church office and online at: [fpcfd.org/information/scholarship-applications/](http://fpcfd.org/information/scholarship-applications/) after February 1st.
2. Be sure the application is COMPLETE and LEGIBLE. Incomplete or improperly completed forms WILL NOT be considered. Be sure to read the application over when completed. Double check that it is complete!
3. Turn in the application to THE CHURCH OFFICE by 10:00 am on April 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. Applicants WILL NOT be notified of any errors in their submissions. The applicant alone is responsible for the content of their application.
5. Include ALL information requested: a biographical sketch, involvement in the church, and church related activities.
6. A current letter (less than a year old) of recommendation from a school instructor or an employer. Do not ask a pastor or church staff member.
7. Include a transcript of grades.
8. Scholarships will be announced at a designated Sunday and will be awarded at class night for your school. A letter will be sent regarding the amount of scholarship money you will receive, please read this letter closely.
9. The Sergeant Scholarship has a separate and different form to be filled out.
10. We will list names of the scholarship recipients in the church bulletin and the newsletter.
11. **Please contact the Church Accountant for any of the following changes: Home or College address change; name change; and/or a change in schools or your enrollment status. The deadlines to communicate these changes are 1<sup>st</sup> semester by July 15th, 2<sup>nd</sup> semester by December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

Please direct any additional questions or concerns to the church accountant, Amy Conlon. She can be reached using the church office number listed above.

Thank you, The Scholarship Committee

Updated: Jan. 2025

# Scholarship Guidelines and Criteria

## **The Merlin & Ethyl Rufer Scholarship Trust**

- A. Awards may be for undergraduate, graduate school, or advanced degrees
- B. Recipients must have a grade point average equal to or exceeding the student body average at their respective high school (class rank) or have shown ability to show progress academically.
- C. A candidate who receives this scholarship will be considered for aid the following year, but a new application must be submitted, and aid is not guaranteed.
- D. The trust requires that applicants be members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Dodge, Iowa.
- E. Grants are given for the full year rather than on a semester basis, half of the grant money will be paid to the school each semester.
- F. Participation in the life of First Presbyterian Church or in another church while attending college or church related activities will be considered.
- G. The funds will be sent to the registrar of the recipient's college.
- H. If all of the funds are not used for any reason the remainder will be returned to the trust.

## **The Lyle & Ruth Cook Scholarship Trust**

In 1997, the Cook Scholarship Trust was divided into six equal scholarships. The scholarship is awarded to graduating high school seniors.

- A. Recipients must have a grade point average equal to or exceeding the student body average at their respective high school (class rank) or have shown ability to show progress academically.
- B. The trust requires that applicants be members of the First Presbyterian Church of Fort Dodge, Iowa.
- C. Participation in the life of First Presbyterian Church or in another church while attending college or church related activities will be considered. Emphasis will be on active participation.
- D. The funds will be sent to the registrar of the recipient's college.
- E. In the event that all of the funds are not used for any reason the remainder will be returned to the trust.

## **The Daniel A Holmstrom Memorial Scholarship**

This scholarship was given in memory of Daniel A. Holmstrom, to be given to a high school graduate attending an accredited 4-year college or university.

## **The Living Scholarship**

This scholarship is set up for the purpose of generating money for First Presbyterian Church's graduating seniors, as well as church members already attending a four-year college, graduate school, master's program, or vocational school. Interest accumulated yearly on this account is disbursed among applicants as determined by the Scholarship Committee.

## **The Beulah & Leonard Nelson Scholarship**

This scholarship was given in memory of Beulah and Leonard Nelson to be given to a member of First Presbyterian Church for undergraduate studies.

## **The Van Gundy Family Scholarship**

This scholarship was given by the Van Gundy family for students attending an accredited 2- or 4-year college or university or vocational education. There is no age limit for the student.

## **The Willis & Virginia Cook Scholarship**

This scholarship will place emphasis on students with interests in music and the sciences.

## **Seminary Scholarships**

This scholarship is for an applicant raised and living in Fort Dodge who is going into the Presbyterian Ministry.

**Decker Family Scholarship**

Awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee

**Stanek Family Scholarship**

Awarded at the discretion of the Scholarship Committee

**David Crumley Scholarship**

This scholarship is primarily for students under the age of 29 with no minimum GPS or specific class ranking, attending an accredited 4 year university or college in undergraduate, graduate or post graduate studies in the area of vocal or instrumental music or science (to be defined by the Scholarship committee).

**The Gloria & Dale Daggy Scholarship**

This scholarship is to be given to a Fort Dodge Senior High Senior who will be attending Iowa Central Community College. Student must have grade point of 2.5 or higher. Recipient will be chosen by the Daggy family.

**The Arthur E. & Virginia M. Sergeant Scholarship**

There is a separate form for this scholarship which can be picked up in the church office or online. It must be filed out in its entirety with all attachment requested. Incomplete or improperly forms WILL NOT be considered. Selection is made by the Sergeant family.

GRADUATING SENIOR APPLICATION FORM

First Presbyterian Church

1111 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue North, Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ **DUE BY 10 AM ON APRIL 1<sup>ST</sup> IN THE CHURCH OFFICE**

NAME OF APPLICANT: \_\_\_\_\_

HOME ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

HIGH SCHOOL ATTENDED: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS RANK: \_\_\_\_\_ CUMULATIVE GPA \_\_\_\_\_ ACT COMPOSITE \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL GUARDIAN 1'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_ LEGAL GUARDIAN 2'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL GUARDIAN 1'S OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

LEGAL GUARDIAN 2'S OCCUPATION \_\_\_\_\_

SIBLINGS AT HOME \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY MEMBERS IN COLLEGE \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL FAMILY INCOME \_\_\_\_\_ BELOW \$50,000 \_\_\_\_\_ ABOVE \$50,000

COLLEGE CHOSEN TO ATTEND \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS OF COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID OFFICE \_\_\_\_\_

PLANNED MAJOR OR AREA OF INTEREST \_\_\_\_\_

SEMESTERS ATTENDING THIS YEAR: \_\_\_\_ BOTH \_\_\_\_ ONE (IF ONE, PLEASE SPECIFY \_\_\_\_\_)

VOCATIONAL OR EDUCATIONAL GOALS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

EMPLOYMENT (PAST AND PRESENT) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH ACTIVITIES AND INVOLVEMENT:**

**ATTACH: Biographical sketch written about “YOU” using one of the prompts listed below. This is to be a narrative to help us to get to know you better, not a resume or a list of activities. At least one page, double spaced, 11-12 font size, normal margins.**

**Answer one of the two prompts:**

- 1. Tell us about you and your future goals. Such as what you hope to do and why.**
- 2. How have you seen God at work in your life in the last year?**

**ATTACH: Current recommendation from teacher or employer. NOT from a church pastor or church employee.**

**ATTACH: Current high school transcript.**

Checklist

Please check to verify that you have read the directions for the application for a church scholarship.

Please check to verify that you understand that the selection is a serious process, done with confidentiality and care.

Please check to verify that you will abide by the decisions of the Scholarship Committee and are grateful for the opportunity of making an application.

Please check off the requirements and sign:

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Application form is complete and legible
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Biographical sketch is included
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. Current letter of recommendation is included
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Transcript of grades is included
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. Deadline of April 1<sup>st</sup> is met, and application is turned into the church office

\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's signature

If applicant is under 18 years of age, a legal guardian signature is also requested.

\_\_\_\_\_ Legal guardian's signature