

# **The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church 2026 Bishop's Graduate Honors Scholarship**

The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church Bishop's Graduate Honors Scholarship was established to assist men and women of the 5<sup>th</sup> District to obtain a graduate degree education. The **Bishop's Graduate Honors Scholarship** for \$2,500.00 dollars will be awarded to one deserving student. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization administers this scholarship program.

## **I. PURPOSE OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP**

- a. To recognize and reward graduate degree applicants from an accredited institution to return the following college term.
- b. To encourage the applicant to be actively involved in the Lay Organization of the AME Church.

## **II. CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Applicants must be a member of their local AME Church for at least 12 months and must either be an active member of the Lay Organization or in another ministry of the church organization.

- b. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate degree with a GPA of at least 3.0

- c. **APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Contact your Local Lay Organization for an application or from the 5th District Lay Organization: [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com)

- a. Applicants must send the committee an official transcript from the college or university registrar of the school you are attending. **(Official transcripts may be scanned as long as the seal appears on the transcript)**

- b. A personal essay (**300 -500 words**) that describes and includes each of the following 7 elements below:

1. Your long range plans

2. Community **AND** church involvement
3. Demonstrated Leadership skills and ability.
4. Any honors/awards/accomplishments that you have received.
5. Challenges that you have faced.
6. How you responded to your challenge.
7. Demonstrated commitment to local church programs and ministries.

c. Three letters of recommendation: 1. Pastoral staff , 2.Teacher/Counselor  
3. Local Lay Organization or other church ministry.

**LETTERS FROM RELATIVES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

- ci. A 5 x 7 color photograph **must** be submitted with the application.
- cii. All materials must be postmarked or received electronically by the May 15, 2026 deadline. **NO EXCEPTIONS. Any questions must be directed to the email address [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com) in a timely manner PRIOR to the deadline. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.**

#### IV. SELECTION PROCESS

The applicants will be scored by a judging committee comprised of members of 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The judges will evaluate eligible students, based on their academic success, church participation, community service and demonstrated leadership.

#### V. AWARD DISTRIBUTION

Two checks in the amount of \$1,250.00 will be issued by the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, in the name of the Bishop's Graduate Honors Scholarship to the selected student. The student will receive distributions at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The checks will be awarded after proof of enrollment for each semester. (Adjustments will be made for schools on the quarter system)

**The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization  
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
2026 Bishop's Graduate Honors Scholarship Application**

Application Deadline: **MAY 15, 2026**  
(See Criteria for Eligibility – **(Please Type)**)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name	<hr/>	
Phone	<hr/>	
E-mail	<hr/>	
Parent Name(s)	<hr/>	
Parent's E-mail	<hr/>	
Address	<hr/>	
City	<hr/>	
State	<hr/>	Zip Code <hr/>

**COLLEGE INFORMATION**

College you are attending	<hr/>	
Your Major/Minor	<hr/>	
College Address	<hr/>	
City	<hr/>	
State	<hr/>	Zip Code <hr/>

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

Home Church	<hr/>	Annual Conference	<hr/>
-------------	-------	-------------------	-------

**The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET FOR THE BISHOP'S GRADUATE  
HONORS SCHOLARSHIP**  
**Application Deadline: May 15, 2026**

**Checklist**

- I have an academic average of 'B' or better on a 4.0 scale.
- I have composed the requested personal essay (300-500 words) which has been proofread for typing errors, grammars, structure, organization, content and clarity. **(40%)**
- I am a currently enrolled university student at an accredited institution.
- I am submitting a completed scholarship application form.
- I have attached an official university transcript. **(20%)**
- I have attached 3 letters of reference, one of which is a letter verifying church membership and participation in the Lay Organization or other church ministries. **(15%)**
- I have submitted a list of all my school and community extracurricular activities. **(15%)**
- I have submitted a 5 X 7 color photo. **(10%)**
- My name appears on ALL attachments.

Your signature below signifies you have checked each line above and therefore affirm each statement. After signing, attach this form to the front of your application. **Applications will not be reviewed without the checklist attached.**

---

Student's Name (TYPE)

---

Student's Signature

---

Date

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Application materials should be scanned as a PDF and e-mailed no later than May 15, 2026 to: [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com), If necessary, mail application to:**

**BISHOP'S GRADUATE HONORS SCHOLARSHIP  
Attn: Dorothy Vails-Weber - 7489 Gorge View Terrace, San, Diego, CA. 92120**