

The 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

2026 Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement

The 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement was established to assist deserving young men and women in obtaining a post-secondary education. This scholarship is designated for those students planning to attend an accredited institution of higher learning *and* who have maintained a high school cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above. The Fred J. Stuart Scholarship in the amount of one thousand (\$1,500) dollars will be awarded to one deserving student.

I. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

- a. To recognize and reward the educational excellence of graduating high school seniors.
- b. To encourage graduating high school seniors to pursue post-secondary education.
- c. To encourage young people to be actively involved in the training organizations of the AME Church and to participate in community service programs.

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 other Church Ministry.
- b. Applicants must be a graduating high school senior.
- c. Applicants must have a high school academic GPA of at least 3.0.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. Contact your Local Lay Organization for an application or from the 5th District Lay Organization: fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com
- b. A current official high school transcript of grades **(Official transcripts may be scanned as pdf as long as the seal appears on the transcript.)**

- c. Applicants must provide an acceptance letter from the institution of higher learning that she/he plans to attend in the fall of 2026
- d. A personal essay (250 – 300 words) that describes
 - 1. Your long-range plans
 - 2. Community **AND** church involvement
 - 3. Accomplishments or special awards
 - 4. Challenges you have faced
 - 5. How you responded to your challenges
- e. Three (3) letters of recommendation. (1. Teacher/Counselor; 2. Church member/Pastor; and 3. Letter from your local Lay Organization or other Church Ministry to verify church membership and participation in church programs.
LETTERS FROM RELATIVES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.
- f. A 5"x7" color photograph **must** be submitted with the application.
- g. 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 in a timely manner PRIOR to the deadline. PLEASE, NO PHONE CALLS.]**

IV. SELECTION PROCESS

The applicants will be scored by a judging committee comprised of members of the 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The judges will evaluate eligible students based on their academic record, quality of the essay, letters of recommendation, accomplishments, and the level of participation in church ministries. The winner will be announced in July 2026

V. AWARD DISTRIBUTION

Two checks in the amount of \$750.00 each will be issued by 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the name of the Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement to the selected student. The checks will be awarded after proof of enrollment for each semester. (Adjustments will be made for schools on the quarter system.) The first check will be issued at the beginning of the fall, and the other at the beginning of the spring semester.

**The 5th District Lay Organization
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

2026 Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement Application

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

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Parent Name(s) _____

Parent's E-mail _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

COLLEGE INFORMATION

College you are attending _____

Your Major/Minor _____

College Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

CHURCH INFORMATION

Home Church _____ Annual Conference _____

**The 5th District Lay Organization
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET FOR
2026 FRED J. STUART SCHOLARSHIP OF ACHIEVEMENT**

Application Deadline: **MAY 15, 2026**

Checklist

The following is a list of qualifications and items that **MUST** be submitted in order for a scholarship application to be considered. Every candidate must be able to check each line, or the candidate is disqualified.

As a candidate for this Lay Organization scholarship, I affirm the following:

- ☐ I have an academic average of "B" or better (3.0 on a 4.0 scale).
- ☐ I am a graduating high school senior, accepted in an institution of higher learning for fall 2024.
- ☐ I am submitting a completed scholarship application form (copies are acceptable).
- ☐ I have attached an official high school transcript (**30% of score**).
- ☐ I have composed the requested personal essay (250 – 300 words) and **it has been proofread** for typing errors,
grammar, structure, organization, content and clarity (**30% of score**).
- ☐ I have attached three (3) letters of reference, one of which is a letter verifying church membership and participation
in the Lay Organization or other church ministry (**15% of score**).
- ☐ I have a list of all of my school and community extracurricular activities (**15% of score**).
- ☐ Submit a 5 x 7 color photo (**10% of score**).
- ☐ 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 pdf and e-mailed no later than **May 15, 2026**
to: fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com. If necessary, mail application to:

**Fred J. Stuart Scholarship of Achievement Attn: Dorothy Vails-Weber
7489 Gorge View Terrace San, Diego, CA. 92120**