

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

2026 Lay Leadership Scholarship

The 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Lay Leadership Scholarship was established for graduating high school seniors who have exhibited outstanding Leadership. This scholarship is in the amount of Five Hundred (\$500) dollars and will be awarded to one deserving student.

I. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

- a. To recognize and reward a graduating high school senior who has exhibited exemplary Leadership qualities.
- b. To encourage young people to be actively involved in the training organizations of the AME Church and to exhibit leadership.

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. Evidence of Outstanding Leadership.

NOTE: Students with a GED will be considered.

III. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. Contact your Local Lay Organization for an application or from the 5th District Lay Organization: fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com
- b. A personal essay (250 – 300 words) that describes (Note: essay should include all five elements below):
 - 1. Your long-range goals
 - 2. Community **AND** church involvement
 - 3. Accomplishments or special awards

4. Leadership roles you have undertaken
 5. Challenges you have faced
 6. How you responded to your challenges
- c. Three (3) letters of recommendation focused on your Leadership abilities. (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.
- d. A 5"x7" color photograph **must** be submitted with the application.
- e. 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 Leadership qualities as expressed in their essay. The winner will be announced in July 2026.

V. AWARD DISTRIBUTION

A check in the amount of \$500 will be issued by the 5th District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the name of the **Lay Leadership Scholarship** to the selected student. The check will be issued at the beginning of the fall year upon receipt of enrollment documentation to an institution of higher education, trade school, etc.

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

2026 Lay Leadership Scholarship 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 LAY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP**

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 am a graduating high school senior.
- ☐ I have composed the requested personal essay (250 – 300 words) and ***it has been proofread*** for typing errors, grammar, structure, organization, content and clarity (**60% 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 listed all of my school and community leadership 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:

**Lay Leadership Scholarship- Attn: Dorothy Vails-Weber
7489 Gorge View Terrace San Diego, Ca. 92120**