

Report

Educational Society

The Educational Society has been assisting men and women of New Jersey, called by God to full time Christian service, in their pursuit of a theological education. By providing scholarships and loans for more than one hundred and fifty years to persons preparing to serve in Christian ministry, our Annual Conference has invested in the future of the Church of Jesus Christ.

Scholarships are awarded to candidates for ordained ministry who are matriculated in an accredited theological seminary or graduate school approved by the United Methodist Church University Senate (UMCUS) and who are members of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference (GNJAC), or who are clergy of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference engaged in continuing education at an accredited graduate or theological school approved by UMCUS who are not eligible for Ministerial Education Funds..

Interest free loans are available to men and women preparing for full time Christian service, matriculated full or half time in an accredited college, seminary, or graduate school, including Course of Study, approved by UMCUS. Applicants must be a member of a United Methodist Church within the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference.

The distribution of scholarships and loans is determined annually by the Board of Directors of the Educational Society. \$3,500.00 in loans were granted in 2014. In this same year, three scholarships totaling \$16,500.00 were awarded to Cynthia Lydon, Josh Mularski, and William B. Wilson Jr.. The Educational Society is supported by the repayment of loans, interest earned on early endowments, the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference, and contributions from local churches and individuals. Contributions may be made through the Conference Advance # 622. It is an opportunity for the local church to affirm the ministry of pastors who have benefited from Educational Society assistance by “paying it forward” through contributions to Conference Advance #622.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo D. Malessa, President

Report

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry

The Board of Higher Education and Campus Ministry, as the name of the agency indicates, has two crucial ministerial functions: 1) Higher Education – supporting the United Methodist Students of the Greater New Jersey Annual Conference to achieve their higher educations, especially through granting them scholarships; and 2) Campus Ministry – partnering with the campus ministers and local churches that are passionate about their campus ministries, as they tend the religious/spiritual needs/life of the students and faculty in college/university settings.

First of all, every year, the Board has a tough task of selecting/granting scholarship recipients. Due to the limited scholarship funding availability, the Board carefully and prayerfully selects the scholarship beneficiaries. In year 2015 (as was the case in the previous year), the Board was able to grant nineteen overtly qualified students from various backgrounds, locations, and studies their scholarships. The Board is working toward a way to grant more scholarships, without compromising the quantity and quality of the conference scholarships that we offer to our students, by contacting the UMM and UMW of our local churches and by creative fundraising event(s). The reason once again is that the Board is in agreement, refusing to turn down our U.M. students in their academic and spiritual journey in their colleges and universities settings.