UNITED METHODISTS
OF GREATER NEW JERSEY

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND MINISTRY

2026 GNJ SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

The applicant is responsible for making sure the following six (6) items are complete and received via the Arena website. Transcripts should be postmarked by March 31 (the deadline). The scholarship committee will NOT consider incomplete scholarship packets. This checklist must be completed and included with your supplemental documents. (If you are unable to send your documents digitally, please mail them to the Mission and Resource Center, postmarked by March 31, 2026). Please submit everything at one time. Once all materials have been received for review, you will receive a confirmation email from the Connectional Ministries Administrator.

CHECK LIST:

1. 2026 GNJ Scholarship Application Form: Scholarship applications should be submitted electronically through the GNJ website between March 1 - 31. Check the scholarships for which you are applying and eligible. Complete the form fully. Applicant's digital signature is required. Please check for spelling errors or missing information before submitting. Remember that this form will be photocopied for committee members.Your application will not be considered if this form is incomplete and/or required documents are not included.

2. Transcript: Sealed school OFFICIAL student transcripts (student copies, photocopies or school websitecopies are not acceptable) with grades up to and including December 31 before the application due date will be accepted. Please do not wait until the last week of the application due date to request an official transcript as it can take 5-7 business days (or more) for a school to process an official transcript request, and it may be received past the deadline.

3. Letters of Recommendation: All applications will require **three (3)** recommendation letters. One from the pastor, one from the administrative council (chair or member) and one personal (professional, teacher, associate pastor, civic organization leader, mentor, etc.; not a family member). Recommendation letters should share what they know of the student, the student's contribution to the community and their experience in mission and ministry within the local congregation. The letters must be signed and included in the google drive shared link. Your application will not be considered without the recommendation letters. If your pastor is related to you (parent, spouse, or other relative), please ask someone else to write this letter of recommendation. The letter from your pastor, or other church representative, needs to highlight applicant's involvement in the church and community, as well as membership status.

4. One-page typed statement: Please submit a one-page typed statement on why you wish to be considered for one of these awards. Be sure to include specific details about financial need and information about your Christian commitment (for example: leadership roles in the local church, participation in groups, committee and community involvement). Be sure your statement is current. Do not duplicate the previous year's statement. Check grammar and spelling carefully – they reflect the care and attention that has been given to preparing your statement. **For the Frances Nelson Scholarship,** please provide a statement of how you intend to serve in full-time Christian service following graduation.

5. Financial statement: Especially for scholarships to help meet financial needs, a copy of the FAFSA

determination/eligibility sheet is required. If parents or the student have not yet filed their tax returns by the scholarship application due date, a copy of the FAFSA submittal sheet with a copy of an estimated tax return will be accepted. Your application will not be considered without this financial statement. Please remember a pin (personal identification number) will be needed to fill out the FAFSA application, and this may take 3-5 business days to process. Please **do not** send income tax returns. The FAFSA email confirmation is not acceptable for this requirement. **Please include the entire FAFSA sheet.**

6. Applicant's signature is required.

Scholarship funds are limited. It is not possible to grant a scholarship to every student who applies.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 31, 2026

Please be sure all items listed above are received via EPA&GNJ's Arena Website by the deadline.

Contact Info: Please email Andy Chan at achan@epagnj.org with any questions.