



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

Undergraduate/Vocational/
Community College
Students Application 2026

*"Called by Christ to connect the
disconnected to Christ and
equip the connected to be like Christ."*

***Deadline for all information:
May 3, 2026***

Rev. Dr. Patrick L. Daymond, Senior Pastor
Rev. Dr. Ozzie E. Smith Jr., Pastor Emeritus
1130 E. 154th Street, South Holland, IL 60473
708.333.5955

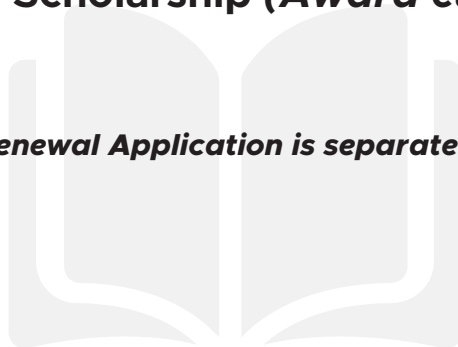
COVUCC.ORG |   @COVUCC



Please select the scholarships you wish to apply for. All applicants will be considered for all Upper Class/College Scholarships for which they satisfy the criteria and have provided the required essays and documentation, where applicable. CUCC membership is required for the undergraduate applicant. The CUCC Scholarship Renewal application is required to be submitted for consideration of that scholarship.*¹

- ☐ **The CUCC Undergraduate Scholarship**
- ☐ **The Barbara Westbrook-Smith “FAITH IN ACTION” Scholarship**
- ☐ **Michael Burroughs Community College/Vocational Scholarship**
- ☐ **James Capers Foundation Textbook Scholarship**
- ☐ **Men’s Fellowship Willie Wade Annual Scholarship**
- ☐ **Men’s Fellowship MFM Legacy Scholarship**
- ☐ **Men’s Fellowship Memorial Scholarship**
- Stewart HBCU Scholarship (*Award currently unavailable*)**

¹*The CUCC Scholarship Renewal Application is separate.*



WHY COVENANT SCHOLARSHIPS MATTER?



"The scholarship program here at Covenant has helped me with more opportunities to further my education and career in more ways than I could ever imagined!"

Jalen - Covenant Scholarship Recipient



"This scholarship has helped me to stay in school and achieve my dream of becoming a Speech Pathologist, and has also alleviated my anxieties about being able to stay in school."

Jenna - Covenant Scholarship Recipient

2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROCESS

1. The **deadline** for returning the completed application, required documentation, college transcript and essays is **Sunday, May 3, 2026**. **Applications will be accepted beginning March 1, 2026.**
2. **Please carefully read the criteria for each scholarship for additional, specific requirements for each scholarship.**
3. **You only need to submit one application. You will be considered for all scholarships you apply for.**
4. **All** students are encouraged to apply. This packet contains information for scholarships available at the time of this printing.

All scholarship applicants must satisfy the following requirements:

5. **Qualified applicant's attendance at a 4-year institution or vocational/ community college must begin no later than the fall following their high school graduation.**
6. **Church Membership:** Church membership is a requirement – Scholarships are for Covenant members only. **Student/applicant must be a member of CUCC as of March 1, 2025.** You must provide your date of right hand of fellowship on the application form. Applicants must have participation in ministries at CUCC.
7. **CUCC Volunteer Activity Requirement:** Applicants **must** complete at least one volunteer activity at the Covenant United Church of Christ **before** the application deadline May 3rd. Volunteer activities such as Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, Breakfast with Santa, Food Pantry are acceptable. **Please contact Ms. Seena Brodnax Brown at sbbrown@covucc.org for other volunteer opportunities.**
8. **Official Transcript:** Apply for an Official Final Transcript (transcript must show date of graduation). Please have an electronic official transcript emailed to: scholarship@covucc.org.

Secure a receipt for your transcript and include a digital / scanned copy of it in your completed packet.

9. **Letters of Recommendation:** Applicants must submit **two** letters of recommendation on official letterhead from two of the following sources:
 - High School Instructor or Counselor
 - Active Church Member
 - Professional Affiliation
 - Community Organization





The letters must indicate why the applicant is deserving of this scholarship.
The writer must include their signatures, email and/or phone number.

10. Standard Essay: One (1) Standard Essay is required to fulfill the minimum standard requirement for all applicants to be considered for all scholarships. The Standard Essay* must be typed. At the top of each page of the essay, you must include your name.

The purpose of the Standard Essay is to help us to know you better beyond your scholastic achievements that are shown in your transcript. The essay should not exceed 750 words.

- a. At a minimum, your **Standard Essay** should address each (all) of the following:
- Academic Accomplishments
 - Academic Challenges
 - Activities in school, community and at CUCC. Tell how these activities have positively impacted your life.
 - Family – include parental/household make-up, siblings, parental support
 - Life Changes – drastic changes, both positive and challenging, in your life (e.g., economic hardship, illness/disease, change of address/school, separation and/or divorce, impact of current events)
 - Future Goals/How do you want to be seen in the world—include career goals, employment, college choice, college major, continuing education (graduate/professional schools)

11. Letter of acceptance into an accredited 4-year institution or vocational/community college

12. Attend College Freshman Bootcamp. Date to be announced.

13. Submission: Submit completed application and required documents to the scholarship ministry:

- a. **Please submit electronically, by midnight on May 3, 2026, to scholarship@covucc.org – on the subject line place “Undergraduate Scholarship Appl for (your first name) (your last name)”**
- b. Please submit all required documents electronically via email to **scholarship@covucc.org** no later than **midnight on May 3, 2026**. Ensure that all documents are in **PDF format** and submitted **together in a single email**. Use the subject line: **“Undergraduate Scholarship Application – [Your First Name] [Your Last Name].”**

If you have questions/concerns, contact the CUCC Scholarship Ministry at scholarship@covucc.org. Members of the committee will be in the narthex following both worship services to answer questions on April 26, May 3, and June 7.

14. Scholarship Sunday is June 14, 2026, during the 11:00 am Worship Service. Recipients or family member should be present.





2026 COMPLETED APPLICATION CHECKLIST

To be considered for all scholarships, all high school applicants must meet the following:

- ☐ CUCC member as of March 1, 2025
- ☐ Submit a completed application data form, which includes CUCC Ministries & Extra-Curricular Activities information submission.
- ☐ Submit **two** letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Submit a Standard Essay of 750 words or less.
- ☐ Receipt showing you applied for your official final transcript. Email to the attention of the CUCC scholarship Ministry.
- ☐ CUCC Volunteer Activity Requirement
- ☐ An Official Final Transcript from your high school showing date of graduation.
- ☐ Letter of acceptance into an accredited 4-year institution **or** vocational/community college.
- ☐ **Submit application by May 3, 2026.**
- ☐ Show proof of registration (12 or more credit hours). Email information to scholarship@covucc.org no later than September 1, 2026.

***** Please carefully read the criteria for each scholarship for additional, specific requirements for each scholarship.**



Some of Our Nation's Prestigious Historically Black Colleges and Universities

Spelman



Johnson C. Smith University



Trenholm State
COMMUNITY COLLEGE



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

THE CUCC UNDERGRADUATE Scholarship

(Sponsored by Covenant United Church of Christ)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Qualified applicant's attendance at a **4-year institution** must begin no later than the fall following their high school graduation.
- Minimum academic GPA 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

THE BARBARA W. SMITH FAITH IN ACTION Scholarship

(Sponsored by the Family of the late Barbara W. Smith)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Must be a senior in high school entering a **post-secondary or vocational program**
- Must have a minimum grade point average (GPA) of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale or be in the top one-third of their class
- Must attend Sunday School at CUCC. Proof of attendance in Sunday School, signature required
- Proof of community service or relevant work experience stipulating number of hours worked
- Must provide evidence of excellence in a subject area, talent, or skill
- Must have applied and gained acceptance into a full-time post-secondary or certificate program
- Must submit **3 letters of recommendation** from a current/previous employer, teachers, and/or others in a supervisory position or those who know them well
- Must submit **essays** (word count: 500 – 750), double-spaced **to the following prompts:**
 - **Prompt 1:** Mrs. Barbara W. Smith, the late wife of our Pastor Rev. Ozzie Smith, left a legacy of faith to the children and members of Covenant United Church of Christ. In your own words, describe what her legacy of faith means to you. (You may ask members of her family and or members of the congregation for additional information about Mrs. Smith's faith legacy.)
 - **Prompt 2:** Discuss a leadership experience you have had in any area of your life; school, work, athletics, family, church, community, etc. How and why did you become a leader in this area? How did this experience influence your goals?
 - **Prompt 3:** Briefly describe a situation in which you felt that you or others were treated unfairly or were not given an opportunity you felt you deserved. Why do you think this happened? How did you respond? Did the situation improve because of your response?



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Faith in Action Scholarship Review Committee Members will score your response based on your ability to write a focused, developed, and organized essay. Responses may include a discussion of career goals or personal life experiences.

Faith in Action Scholarship Review Committee Members Will Score the Following:

- Presentation of application (neatness, spelling, punctuation, etc.)
- GPA
- Related community, performance, or work experience
- Strength of letters of recommendation
- Essays
- Interview

JAMES CAPERS FOUNDATION Textbook Scholarship

(Sponsored by Mr. James and Mrs. Spring Capers)

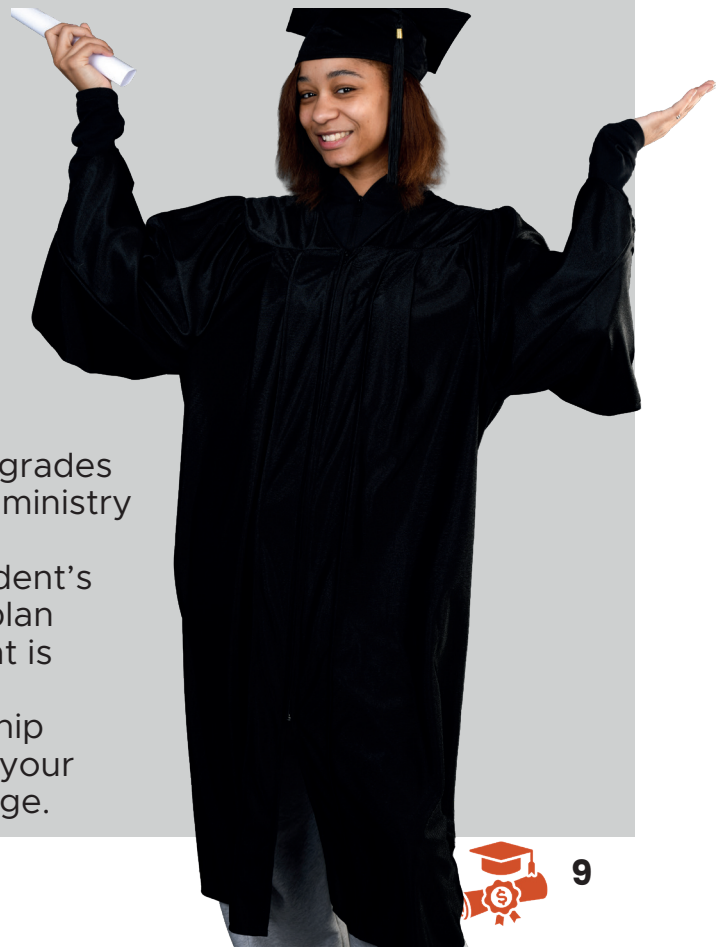
The James Capers Foundation established a BOOK SCHOLARSHIP for selected college students who are members of Covenant United church of Christ. The scholarship will provide \$500.00 towards the purchase of course books for each semester the selected students are in college, during the fall and spring semesters.

Mr. Capers believes the keys above are guidelines for attaining success during your college years. He further feels that by adopting these points, they can only enhance your chances of success. Good luck to all applicants and may God continue to bless you and your families.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria.
- Must maintain GPA 2.3 per semester, grades must be submitted to the scholarship ministry on a semester basis.
- A one-page typed letter from the student's parent or guardian stating how they plan to support their college bound student is required.
- Must show proof of a summer internship in your chosen field upon completing your sophomore and or junior year of college.



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP WILLIE WADE Annual Scholarship

{This Scholarship is awarded only if Funding Resources are available during the current academic year.}

\$500 awarded during the MFM Golf and Dinner Outing before the upcoming academic year.
\$500 awarded after the 2nd semester with proof of 2.5 GPA in the second semester.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Minimum 2.5 GPA 2.5 or C+
- Must have been accepted to attend a college/university full-time
- Letter of support from parent or guardian
- Demonstration of community and CUCC ministry service; include activity & participation



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LEGACY Scholarship

{This Scholarship is awarded only if Funding Resources are available for each of 4 successive academic yrs. when student is pursuing a bachelor's degree.}

\$500 awarded after the 1st semester to the Legacy awardee(s) with proof of 2.5 GPA in the 1st semester. \$500 awarded after the 2nd semester with proof of a cumulative 2.5 GPA in the second semester.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Previous full academic year with proof of a cumulative 2.5 GPA
- Participation in a CUCC Ministry Activity, e.g., Men's Fellowship Activities -Assist in preparation and giving out holiday boxes and gift packages -Mentoring of CUCC high school students



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP MEMORIAL Scholarship

{This Scholarship is awarded only if Funding Resources are available during the current academic year.}

This Memorial Scholarship is presented to memorialize a loved one. A Memorial Scholarship is expected to be a minimum of \$1,000 to one student and the student awardee must be a CUCC member and is at the discretion of the scholarship donor. \$500 awarded during the MFM Golf & Dinner Outing before the current academic year for a new awardee. \$500 awarded after the 2nd semester with proof of 2.5 GPA in the second semester.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Minimum 2.5 GPA 2.5 or C+

MICHAEL BURROUGHS COMMUNITY COLLEGE/ VOCATIONAL Scholarship

(Sponsored by Covenant United Church of Christ)

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Minimum Standard Criteria
- Qualified applicant's attendance at a **Community College or Vocational program** must begin no later than the fall following their high school graduation.
- Minimum academic GPA 2.0 on a 4.0 scale



2026 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

HBCU

HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES

THE STEWART HBCU Scholarship

(Sponsored by the Stewart Family)

We, the Stewart siblings, are committed to investing in the next generation of academics. As graduates of Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), we believe deeply in the unique mission of these institutions to educate and empower Black people.

To honor that mission and give back to the community that supported us, we've created a \$1,000 annual scholarship to support one student throughout their undergraduate journey at an HBCU. Our goal is to ease financial burdens and allow recipients to focus on their academic, personal, and professional growth. Open to high school seniors planning to attend an HBCU, the scholarship is renewable for up to four years, based on good academic standing.

As lifelong members of Covenant, we're especially grateful to the church — including the scholarship committee, Men's Fellowship, and the Capers family — who stepped in during a time of hardship in our own lives. This scholarship is our way of paying that kindness forward. We know all too well that it takes a village, and we're honored to join yours.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA:

To be considered for this scholarship, you must meet the following criteria:

- Must be planning to attend a Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
- At least a 3.0 unweighted GPA

Application Materials

- Unofficial high school transcript
- College acceptance letter
- Resume, portfolio, or list of accomplishments
- Short essay questions (follow MLA formatting guide, no ChatGPT):

Questions

- 1. Who are you? (Tell us about yourself, your background, etc) 100 word minimum**
- 2. What is your purpose? What do you aspire to in life? 100 word minimum**
- 3. Why are you pursuing a college degree? 100 word minimum**
- 4. Why have you chosen to attend an HBCU? 100 word minimum**
- 5. How are you paying for college? No word minimum**





2026 APPLICATION DATA FORM

Please complete all fields.

Applicant Name:
Date of Birth (mm/dd/yyyy) **Gender:**
Home Address:
City: **State:** **Zip:**
Phone: **Email address:**
Parent's/Legal Guardian's Name:
Phone: **Parent's Email address:**

High School Name:
Expected Date of High School Graduation (month/year):
City: **State:** **Zip:**
Graduation Date: **GPA:**

Name of 4-Year institution, vocational/community college you plan to attend:
City: **State:**
Anticipated Major/Field of Study:
Expected Date of College Graduation (month/year):
I plan to pursue/receive a(n):

Please list all scholarships/grants that you have been awarded.

Applicant's Signature:
Date:
Parent's/Legal Guardian's Signature:
Date:

2026 APPLICATION DATA FORM

CUCC Volunteer Activities listed here (Examples - Thanksgiving Basket Giveaway, Breakfast with Santa, Food Pantry):

2026 CUCC MINISTRIES PARTICIPATION FORM

Applicant Name:

Please indicate CUCC Church Ministries you participated in while in High School.

Name of Ministry and Dates of Involvement (mm-yy) - Select all that apply

☐ Youth Choir

☐ Junior Deacons

☐ Usher Ministry

☐ Food Pantry

☐ Imani Dance Ministry

☐ Youth Choir Band

☐ Other (*include name*)



CONTACT US

Tel : (708) 333-5955

Email : scholarship@covucc.org

Website : covucc.org



Where will
a **Covenant
Scholarship**
take you?

Find out by
applying
today!