

FRANK AND JOYCE PICKENS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Philosophy

The Frank and Joyce Pickens Scholarship Fund is established to support members of the Cairo First United Methodist Church with financial assistance for higher education. It is designed to encourage students by demonstrating the love and support of the church and to foster an ongoing spirit of giving to others through our church family.

Eligibility

1. The Frank and Joyce Pickens Scholarship Fund is available to active members of the First United Methodist Church in Cairo, Georgia. Church membership must be established at least two years before receipt of funds.
2. The recipient and recipient's family are expected to have upheld the Cairo First United Methodist Church with their Prayers, Presence, Gifts, Service, and Witness during the two years preceding the application deadline. This ongoing understanding is expected to continue.
3. The scholarship recipient may receive funds for up to four academic years. The years need not be consecutive as long as the recipient qualifies under all other guidelines.
4. Full scholarship funds will only be awarded to full time students up to 25 years of age who attend any accredited institution of higher learning. Partial scholarships may be awarded to part time students.
5. The applicant must maintain a 2.0 GPA during the four academic years and have at least a 2.0 GPA from high school. Grade transcripts from high school are required with the initial application and college transcripts are required to renew the award.

Procedures

1. All applicants must complete an application form. Application forms are available in the church office or online.
2. First time applicants must submit grade transcripts from high school and a 300-500 word essay entitled *What Cairo FUMC Means to Me*. Renewal applicants must submit college transcripts. First semester transcripts must be submitted mid-year.
3. Completed applications and essays (if applicable) must be submitted to the church office by May 1 of the year in which funds are requested. Applications that are incomplete or received after this date will not be reviewed. Transcripts must be submitted upon completion of current school term.
4. Interviews with the scholarship committee may be required each year. The purpose of these interviews is to develop and encourage supportive relationships.
5. Scholarship applications will be reviewed by the scholarship committee for recommendation of approval to the Board of Trustees in coordination with the Laity Council.
6. If awarded scholarship funds, checks will be made payable to the recipient and their parents and mailed to the home address. Checks will be issued in August and January.