

# THE ERVIN AND DORTHA RAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## *Scholarship Guidelines*

### **Trinity United Methodist Church**

**220 South Walnut Street, Van Wert, Ohio 45891**

**Purpose:** Ervin and Dortha Rager, long-time members of Trinity United Methodist Church (TUMC), bequeathed part of their estate to the church to be used for scholarships for students who are **active members of the church. It was their intent that these students be chosen from members of the church who plan to attend or are attending Taylor University or Ohio Northern University.**

The Ervin and Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarship is intended to be a partnership between each scholarship student and the people of Trinity United Methodist Church. To foster and strengthen this partnership, TUMC wishes there to be frequent contact between the student and the people of the church over the period the student receives the scholarship. Whenever a scholarship student is home on academic breaks, attending services, etc., the scholarship committee and church members will make every effort to keep up to date with the student and provide on-going encouragement. When the scholarship student submits his or her application for renewal of the scholarship for subsequent years, the scholarship committee will hold an Annual Progress Meeting with the student to express interest and support, as well as to consider the renewal of the scholarship.

**Funding:** The funds will be managed by The Van Wert County Foundation. A check will be issued in June and December of each fiscal year from the income only, to Trinity United Methodist Church from the foundation. These monies will be used each year by TUMC to fund these scholarships, and will be divided among the scholarship awardees according to their tuition needs. The intent is for the fund to grow and never be depleted; consequently if the funds drop below the initial principle there may not be any monies/or few monies awarded from the foundation for a given year or few years. This has never happened but the economy is unpredictable. Therefore the committee will establish a CD with \$20,000 for the Rager Scholarship Fund under the umbrella of Trinity United Methodist Church. This money will only be used IF several students apply for scholarships in any given year or IF there are no funds distributed to Trinity UM Church from the Van Wert County Foundation. The Rager Scholarship committee will have the discretion to decide when and IF the funds from this CD are needed for this purpose. Should all funds not be needed, then the remainder will be kept in the Rager Scholarship Fund under the umbrella of the General Fund at TUMC. Should these funds grow, the scholarship committee will decide how much to invest in a CD to be kept with TUMC and how much should be reinvested at the Van Wert County Foundation. Ten percent of the Rager Scholarship funds that are held in the CD plus the funds in the Rager Scholarship Fund under the umbrella of the General Fund will be distributed to the General Fund for use of Trinity United Methodist Church on special projects or at the discretion of the church governing body at the end of each fiscal year. TUMC will ALSO keep any interest earned from the Rager Scholarship CD as an appreciation for handling these monies.

**Scholarship Committee:** A Trinity United Methodist Scholarship Selection Committee oversees the entire scholarship process. The scholarship committee's goal is to help and support our fellow church members. The committee consists of a TUMC trustee, a member of the TUMC finance committee, a member of the TUMC education committee, and a TUMC member at-large. In addition Kay Bevington, Dortha's niece and a Trustee of the Rager Trust, or her family. This person may also appoint the fifth member of the scholarship committee. If any one of these committee members is related to an applicant, that committee member will be excused from the committee for that year and another person of a similar position will be appointed by the scholarship committee.

The scholarship committee holds an Annual Progress Meeting with each of the current scholarship students and interviews the first-time applicants. The committee is empowered to interview the applicants and select the scholarship recipients. Depending on the individual circumstances, some of the scholarship partnerships may be for more than four years. This committee, combined with the original founders of the scholarship committee is empowered to approve the amount of money awarded each year depending on the funds that are available for the up-coming year as established by the Rager Trust guidelines and the number of students submitting successful applications. Scholarships are only awarded to active members of Trinity United Methodist Church. The applicant's status with regard to this criterion will be determined

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by the scholarship committee based on church participation and information provided in the application and during the interview.

Minutes should be kept by a secretary for the scholarship committee meetings so that appropriate updates can be made. The secretary will also need to make approved additions to directions and update the due dates for the applications annually. The secretary may be chosen from the members of the selection committee. There should always be an individual involved with the committee who has had previous experience on one of the Rager Scholarship committees.

**Organization Responsible For Funds:** The Van Wert County Foundation will be responsible to supervise the allocation of funds in financial/investment institutions that provides a safe and best rate of interest according to their guidelines for investment. Should Trinity United Methodist Church withdraw from the United Methodist Conference or the church would no longer be an active house of worship then the foundation will administer the selection process of the scholarship recipients. The foundation will be responsible to see that the guidelines of their scholarships are followed and will also be responsible for investing and securing the money so that scholarships may be given to Van Wert area students. The foundation will keep their required percentage of interest of the fund annually.

Trinity United Methodist Church Treasurer/Assistant Treasurer will handle the Rager Scholarship CD and money in the Rager Scholarship Fund under the umbrella of the TUMC General Fund. A semi-annual report will be given to the chairman of the Rager Scholarship committee each year by January 30<sup>th</sup> and July 30<sup>th</sup> annually, so that the Scholarship and Founding Committee are aware of available funds.

**Process Review:** The original scholarship committee shall evaluate this scholarship process every two years to determine if these guidelines are functioning effectively, students' needs are being met and the guidelines of the trust are being followed. It may be reviewed at any point in time with changes made accordingly.

Developers of the application process:

Joe Bagley, Kay Bevington, Pastor Scott Campbell, Lynn Davis, Randy Gardner and Phil Hotmire

October 10, 2011

Revised August 2013

Revised June 2014

Revised December 2015

Revised January 2018

Updated January 2019

# THE ERVIN AND DORTHA RAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

## *Scholarship Application Requirements*

*All applications, reference forms, and other required application materials must be **received** by email or postal mail by noon on April 18, 2019!*

The Ervin and Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarships are awarded by the Trinity United Methodist Church, trustees of the fund. The trustees will pay the scholarship funds directly to the university that the student will attend in the fall of the year 2019. The scholarship funds are to be used only for tuition costs. If the student fails to matriculate or does not attend his or her chosen college in the fall semester/quarter of 2019, the scholarship funds will be returned to the memorial fund. The scholarship committee may agree to defer the scholarship award until the following year if the student does not need the monies the first year of college enrollment or agree to split the funds between semesters or quarters. Should the student decide to defer payment for a year then the student will need to reapply, using the renewal section, to guarantee current qualification requirements.

A student already enrolled at either Taylor University or Ohio Northern University must complete a scholarship application when making his or her initial request for scholarship monies.

An Annual Progress Meeting with each scholarship student allows the scholarship committee to maintain an appropriate partnership relationship with each student and to monitor the student's progress.

### **Basic Qualifying Criteria:**

1. The applicant must be an active member of Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert, OH.
2. The applicant must have displayed leadership and Christian character in his or her daily life.
3. The applicant must either a) be a graduating high school senior with a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.5 and planning to enroll at Taylor University or Ohio Northern University, or b) be a student already enrolled or transferring enrollment to Taylor University or Ohio Northern University with a minimum grade point average of 2.5.

### **Application**

*To apply for the scholarship, please provide all of the following materials:*

1. A completed application form.
2. A photo of you. Note we may publish the photo in the local newspaper and our Trinity Newsletter.
3. A transcript from your high school or from Taylor University or Ohio Northern University, verifying your cumulative grade point average.
4. References from three adults who are *not* members of your family. One of the references must be from a high school or college teacher; one must be from a pastor, youth pastor or Sunday school teacher; and the third must be from another adult who is not a relative of the applicant. These three references are to be submitted directly to the scholarship committee by the person making the reference.

*Please note that the scholarship awards for the academic year 2019-2020 may be presented at the Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert, OH, on a Sunday to be determined in May or June 2019..*

*All scholarship awardees are expected to attend the presentation.*

Please email or mail all materials to:  
The Ervin and Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarship  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
220 South Walnut Street  
Van Wert, OH 45891  
Email [tumcvanwert@embarqmail.com](mailto:tumcvanwert@embarqmail.com)

**THE ERVIN AND DORTHA RAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Scholarship Application Form – First Year*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Van Wert, OH?  YES  NO

Dates of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

High School or University/Trade School you are attending: \_\_\_\_\_

I am in my \_\_\_\_\_ year at the above school. Anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

At Ohio Northern University or Taylor University I plan to study: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Length:  Two years  Four years  Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please obtain three adult references, each to be submitted on a separate reference form.*

- One must be from a Sunday school teacher, the pastor or the youth director of Trinity United Methodist Church
- One must be from a high school teacher or college professor
- One must be from an adult who is NOT a family member.

*Reference One:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reference Two:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reference Three:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Be sure to attach a photo of you and a transcript from your high school  
or from Taylor University or Ohio Northern University

*Please respond to each of the following questions:  
(You may copy these questions to your computer and type your answers under each question.)*

**A. Church**

1. What does being a Christian mean to you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. In what church activities have you participated?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. How have you served Trinity United Methodist Church in Van Wert, OH?

**B. School/Community/Volunteer Activities**

1. Please list the school, community activities, volunteer work in which you have been involved during the past two years:

*Activity/Club* \_\_\_\_\_ *Year(s) Attended* \_\_\_\_\_ *Major Emphasis of Club/Activity* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Which of these activities and experiences has been the most meaningful for you? Explain briefly.

**B. Employment**

1. List any jobs you have had in the past two years.

*Company/Organization* \_\_\_\_\_ *Period* \_\_\_\_\_ *Name of Employer/* \_\_\_\_\_  
*Employed* \_\_\_\_\_ *Supervisor* \_\_\_\_\_ *Phone* \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative- On a separate sheet of paper, please type and describe in at least one page how your faith and membership at Trinity United Methodist Church has influenced your life and your community. Tell how you have been and are currently involved at Trinity United Methodist Church.**

**THE ERVIN AND DORTHA RAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
*Scholarship Application Reference Form*

Applicant's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address \_\_\_\_\_

Your Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Your Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to the applicant (e.g., employer, teacher, professor, pastor, Sunday school teacher, youth director, friend):

\_\_\_\_\_

How long have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

Please tell us in **two or more paragraphs** why you think the applicant should receive the Ervin and Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarship from Trinity United Methodist Church.

Please provide **specific examples** in your answer.

Please type your response and paragraphs on a separate paper.

***Do NOT return your reference form to the applicant, as confidentiality is respected and necessary.***  
***Please be completely honest in your evaluation – your input may be the deciding factor in this applicant's receiving this scholarship***

If this applicant receives a scholarship award, do we have your permission to use some or all of the text of your recommendation in publicizing the award to the applicant?     YES     NO

Return this form by mail or email not later than **noon April 18, 2019** to:

The Ervin & Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarship  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
220 South Walnut Street  
Van Wert, Ohio 45891

Email: tumcvanwert@embarqmail.com

*Applicant needs three copies of this form for the original application  
and two copies of this form for the renewal application.*

**THE ERVIN AND DORTHA RAGER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

*Scholarship Renewal Form*

*(Use this form to apply for the renewal of your scholarship)*

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a member of Trinity United Methodist Church, Van Wert, OH? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Dates of Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

University you are attending: \_\_\_\_\_

I am in my \_\_\_\_\_ year at the above school. Anticipated graduation date: \_\_\_\_\_

At Ohio Northern University or Taylor University I am studying: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Length: \_\_\_ Two years \_\_\_ Four years \_\_\_ Other (specify): \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*Please obtain two adult references, each to be submitted on a separate reference form.*

- One must be from one of your university professors
- One must be from an adult who is NOT a family member.

*Reference One:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Reference Two:*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Narrative:** On a separate sheet of paper, please type and describe in at least one page how your faith and membership at Trinity United Methodist Church has influenced your life in the university and your community. Include what church or Christian organization that you are currently attending and tell how you are involved.

*Please attach a transcript from Taylor University or Ohio Northern University*

**DUE BY NOOON, April 18, 2019 to:  
The Ervin & Dortha Rager Memorial Scholarship  
Trinity United Methodist Church  
220 South Walnut Street  
Van Wert, OH 45891**