

George Blankenship Bio



George Blankenship was born on July 12th, 1927 in Wayne County, WV, to Charles and Margaret Booth Blankenship. He was one of twelve children, the seventh son born in succession.

George's family lived in a log cabin in a rural part of the county. His father was a carpenter by trade and tobacco farmer during the depression. George attended a one room school until he entered high school. He had a great deal of respect for his teachers growing up, and that respect propelled him towards education as a career.

After graduating high school, George served in the army for two years between World War II and the Korean Conflict. The G.I. bill made it possible for him to attend Marshall University in Huntington, WV. He was very grateful for that opportunity.

While he was at Marshall, he met Norma Ruth Lewellen. They married in August, 1951. At that time, George had extended family in the Elgin area. He learned from them that teaching salaries were considerably higher than in WV, so he and Norma decided to relocate to Illinois. George's first cousin, Gypsy Lohbaur, and her husband, Art, invited them to Epworth Church. George and Norma decided to make Epworth their church home for the remainder of their lives.

George attended Northern Illinois University and received a Masters Degree in Education. He taught school in District U46 until his retirement. He also owned and managed rental units and spent a considerable amount of time maintaining the properties. Both Norma and he loved to garden and grow flowers.

The Blankenship's had two children, David, born in 1956, and Martha in 1959. George moved his family to Dundee in 1963 and remained there until after Norma's death in 1998. They had been married for 47 years. David passed away in 2005 after a lengthy illness, and Martha currently resides in Bloomington, IL.

George passed away on June 26th, 2007 in Elgin. He is buried in Spencer, WV.

George always appreciated the financial help he had received for college and wanted to give back through Epworth, his church home of over fifty years. The scholarship fund was a way he could encourage others to earn a post secondary education and fulfill their career aspirations.

The George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship



Epworth United Methodist Church

37W040 Highland Avenue

Elgin, IL 60124

Phone: (847) 931-5400

Email: office@eumcelgin.org

1. Purpose

The George Blankenship Memorial Scholarship Fund is established for the purpose of granting educational scholarships to:

College/University Students who meet the following criteria:

- (a) Undergraduate four-year accredited college/university students who are also members or regular attendees of Epworth UMC,
- (b) Students who demonstrate financial need (as calculated using the Federal Application for Student Aid),
- (c) Students who have established a minimum academic status of 2.5 on a 4.0 grade scale and will be duly enrolled according to requirements of a 4 year college or university program, seeking a Bachelor Level Degree.

2. Application

The application for the scholarships will be open to any person who is a member or attendee of Epworth UMC for at least 6 months prior to the scholarship application deadline.

Application deadline is March 31st for the academic year beginning in the fall term of that year.

3. Scholarship Committee

The Scholarship Committee as prescribed by the George Blankenship Trust is as follows:

- (a) Lay Leader
- (b) Senior Pastor
- (c) Chairperson of the Board of Trustees

Any member of the Scholarship Committee who has a family relative applying for scholarship shall have a replacement person appointed by the Church Council and exclude him/herself from deliberating for that applicant.

4. Scholarship Application Requirements

Each applicant will be considered based upon submission of a completed application, official school transcripts, three personal references, one of whom must be an academic instructor/advisor, two other references that must be adult, non-family members, and a concise essay addressing the topic, "What I plan to do with my Education."

The George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship (continued)

5. Amount and Frequency of Scholarships

The amount to be used for Annual Scholarship Awards shall be 5% of the rolling average market value determined by the December 31st account balance for each of the three previous years for the Blankenship Memorial Scholarship Fund, as defined in George Blankenship Declaration of Trust.

6. Award of Scholarships

The Scholarship Committee shall meet as needed and determine awards no later than June 1st of each year.

7. Distribution of Scholarship

Scholarships shall be distributed directly to the college or university indicated by the enrollee recipient. Scholarship recipients are responsible to communicate with the George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Committee any material changes in the educational plan represented in the application, especially any change in enrollment plans or the educational institution attended.

8. Renewal of Scholarships

Recipients may re-apply for any year of anticipated enrollment in a four-year college or university undergraduate program. Scholarships are granted for enrollment in one academic year only. Applications for scholarship are for the upcoming academic year only. The scholarship may be renewed for these approval years as long as criteria established by the committee are met.

9. Scholarship Award Procedures

The George Blankenship Memorial Endowed Fund proceeds for each scholarship year shall be awarded in equal amounts to all recipients. The total amount determined available for the scholarship year will be equally divided among the total number of selected recipients.

If no applicant qualifies or no applications are received in any given scholarship year, no distribution from the George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Fund will occur in that year.

10. The criteria will be reviewed periodically by the Scholarship Committee and revised as needed.

11. If, in the opinion of the Scholarship Committee of Epworth United Methodist Church, future circumstances for which this endowment was established become illegal, impractical, or no longer able to be carried out to meet the intentions of the grantor, said Committee may designate an alternative use for the endowment payout, including the use of the corpus, in the spirit of the original purpose of the endowment.

12. Criteria for scholarship and applications will be available and published by the committee by January 15th.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship

Epworth United Methodist Church

37W040 Highland Avenue, Elgin, IL 60124

Phone: (847) 931-5400

E-Mail: office@eumcelgin.org

Applications must be received by **March 31, 2019** and include:

- Application Form (below)
- Concise essay on "What I Plan to do with my Education"
- Official transcripts
- Three (3) letters of reference, one of whom must be an academic instructor/advisor; the other two must be adult, non-related family members (forms attached)
- Recent individual picture for publicity purposes
- Submit application to:

George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Committee
c/o Epworth United Methodist Church
37W040 Highland Avenue
Elgin, IL 60124
office@eumcelgin.org

Personal Data

Last Name		First Name		Middle Initial
Permanent Address		City	ST	Zip Code
Date of Birth (DD/MM/YYYY)	Telephone Number	E-Mail		
Father's Name	Address	City	ST	Zip Code
Mother's Name	Address	City	ST	Zip Code
Member or Associated with Epworth Church Since?		Month	Year	

Educational Data

High School _____ Graduation Date (Month/Year) _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

(If accredited college/university has been attended)

Accredited College or University _____ Student ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

(If additional accredited college/university has been attended)

Accredited College or University _____ Student ID# _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip Code _____

Name of Accredited College or University for Which Scholarship is Requested _____ Registrar E-Mail Address _____ Telephone Number _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Status: Part-Time Full-Time

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

References

Provide the following information on those people whom you have asked to prepare a letter of reference. One must be one of your academic instructors/advisors affiliated with your present school who has knowledge of your scholastic performance and two other non-family adults. These recommendations must be dated within the present school year.

1. Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

2. Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

3. Name: _____ Occupation: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
E-Mail: _____

Transcript Information

Currently enrolled accredited college or university students must include official transcript of grades from all institutions attended. High school seniors or students who have completed less than one full semester of post-secondary education must include an official high school transcript.

Certification

In submitting this application, I certify that the information provided is complete and accurate to the best of my knowledge. Falsification of information may result in termination of any scholarship eligibility. I also agree that if I do not use the scholarship for the above mentioned education, I will repay the scholarship in full to the George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Fund.

Applicant's Signature

Date

Applicants are encouraged to follow up with the church office two weeks prior to the deadline of the scholarship to verify the application is complete.

Please attach photo

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Phone: (847) 931-5400

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To Be Completed by The Applicant:

Name of Applicant	Address	City	State	Zip Code
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College/University Which Student Will Attend
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To Be Completed by The Reference:

1. How long have you known this student and in what capacity?

2. Why would you recommend this student for this scholarship?

3. Are there any additional comments you wish to be brought to the Scholarship Committee as they evaluate this candidate?

Name	Address	City	State	Zip Code
Company or Organization	Position		Phone	
Signature		E-Mail		

Please mail or e-mail to be received
by **March 31, 2019** to: George Blankenship Endowed Scholarship Committee
c/o Epworth United Methodist Church
37W040 Highland Avenue
Elgin, IL 60124
office@eumcelgin.org

Note: A letter containing the same information listed on this form may be submitted.

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Phone: (847) 931-5400

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To Be Completed by The Applicant.

Name of Applicant	Address	City	State	Zip Code
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College/University Which Student Will Attend

To Be Completed By The Reference:

1. How long have you known this student and in what capacity?

2. Why would you recommend this student for this scholarship?

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