



**HENNEPIN SCHOLARS**  
**Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church**  
**2026**  
**APPLICATION GUIDE**  
**(for 2026-2027 academic year)**

**General:** Hennepin Avenue UMC annually awards scholarships in modest amounts, typically \$500-\$3000, for one year at a time to deserving individuals.

**Please read the following and submit all information by January 26, 2026.**

**NOTE: Applicants may submit all required information by email or postal mail.**

**Applicants will be notified of awards on or before: February 20, 2026.** The timeline for awarding Hennepin Scholarships enables recipients to apply for “Dollars for Scholars” matching scholarships if attending a United Methodist – related institution (see below).

**APPLICATION**

**Personal Information: *Date of birth:*** While this is optional, it does assist the Scholarship Committee in understanding your situation and may aid in the interpretation of your essay.

**College, University or Seminary: *Career Focus:*** Awards are awarded to students pursuing seminary, college or university degree programs, or other post-secondary degree or certificate programs. Applicants must be Hennepin members or Hennepin employees. Priority order for consideration is given to (1) applicants pursuing United Methodist ministry, (2) applicants preparing for other church-related work, (3) applicants studying for careers in non-profit human service fields, and (4) applicants pursuing programs other than in categories (1) – (3).

**Education: *GPA:*** Your academic performance is considered.

**Academic Honors/Activities:** Academic honors and extra circular activities are considered.

**Recent Hennepin Church Activities:** Describe your recent Hennepin activities (youth/young adult/music, etc.), committees, and responsibilities.

**Employment/Internship History:** Describe your current or past related work, internship or volunteer history.

**Financial Information:** Financial need is an important consideration for awards. Applicants should provide a realistic estimate of the cost to complete your degree and how you plan on financing this cost annually. This information is needed to assist in determining your financial need. Please inform us of other scholarships received and of any unusual financial circumstances.

**Application Contents: 5 Parts (to be submitted to Hennepin by Monday, January 26, 2026)**

- **Application:** Please include complete address of tuition office where scholarship award should be sent.
- **Transcript:** A copy of your transcript from the most recent year of education (high school or college).
- **Essay:** An essay is required **NOT TO EXCEED 500 WORDS** as a part of your application. Your essay should include the following information:

1. Your career goals in life and how a college education will assist you in reaching those goals
2. What led you to this choice in career, or course of study?
3. Church, school, community and leadership activities, as well as outstanding achievements
4. Your need for financial assistance.

Adult learners should describe their current situations, and whether they will be attending school full-time or part-time.

- **References:** We require two letters of reference, particularly from persons who are familiar with your career interests and your level of dedication to reaching these goals. If a church related career has been chosen, one of the letters must be from your minister or youth director..
- **Headshot Photo**

Note: Reference letters may be sent separately from your application or with your application, but must be received at Hennepin Avenue UMC by **Monday, January 26 , 2026**, and must indicate the person for whom the letter is written.

**Note:** Completed applications (5 parts - application form, transcript, essay, letters of reference, photo) must be received by January 26, 2026 to receive consideration.

**Contact:**

Jack B. Fistler, Ph.D.  
Director of Legacy Giving  
Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church  
511 Groveland Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403  
(612) 435-1321  
(651) 353-6942 (cell/text)  
[jack@haumc.org](mailto:jack@haumc.org)

**United Methodist *Dollars for Scholars***

**Dollars for Scholars**, sponsored by the United Methodist Higher Education Foundation (UMHEF), provides scholarship assistance to United Methodist students who attend United Methodist-related schools, colleges, universities and seminaries in the United States. The Minnesota United Methodist Foundation (MNUMF) is a partner in the program, specifically to aid United Methodist students from Minnesota. Under the Dollars for Scholars program, UMHEF will provide a \$1,000 scholarship to match a \$1,000 award from the student's local church. In addition, the United Methodist-related school and the MN United Methodist Foundation also will provide matching \$1,000 scholarships, for a total award of \$4,000.

UMHEF administers over 70 funded scholarships for United Methodists, some of which do not necessarily require attendance at a United Methodist-related institution. View [www.gbhem](http://www.gbhem) to review the list and criteria for various Loans and Scholarships.