



The United Methodist  
Foundation of Arkansas

## *United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas* *Seminary Scholarship Application and Covenant*

This application is for the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas Seminary Scholarship and is awarded to those selected candidates seeking **ELDERS** orders in the Arkansas Conference as a pastor of a local church. Application and all requested items must be received by March 1, 2015. If you wish to apply, please return this form and the requested items to: BOM Secretary, Arkansas Area Office, 800 Daisy Bates Dr., Little Rock, AR 72202-3770. For more information, call Nancy Meredith locally at 324-8033 or toll-free at 877-646-1816, or you may contact Dr. Sandy Smith at 501-529-1396.

*Please print:*

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State & Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): permanent \_\_\_\_\_ home \_\_\_\_\_ work \_\_\_\_\_

Fax, E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

If a student, where \_\_\_\_\_

Name/Location of Church membership \_\_\_\_\_

Present employment \_\_\_\_\_

If you have applied or been accepted to a United Methodist seminary, please name it: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### **FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

**Yes No**

Are you indebted from your undergraduate work? If so, how much?  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Have you applied for other scholarships?

Are you the recipient of other scholarships or grants? If so, please describe:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How do you plan to fund your seminary education?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## **ATTACHMENTS**

Attach the following items to your application:

- A. A copy of Form 113. Eligibility for this scholarship grant requires that an applicant be a Certified Candidate (2012 Book of Discipline Para. 310.2).
- B. A copy of the applicant's most recent college transcript.
- C. A copy of the applicant's resume including volunteer as well as paid employment.
- D. A minimum of two recommendation letters. One must be from someone currently and directly involved with the applicant's ministry/leadership. Persons submitting reference letters should explain how long they have known the applicant, in what setting(s) have they observed the applicant, and they should describe the applicant's relational skills, organizational skills, educational potential, intellectual abilities, and demonstrated leadership potential.

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

Attach responses to the following topics and questions:

- A. Describe your church and/or civic volunteer experiences.
- B. Describe your call to ministry as an Elder in the United Methodist Church and why you are seeking this scholarship.
- C. Describe a time when you faced conflict. What were the issues? What was your role? What did you do to help resolve the conflict?
- D. Ministry involves a number of gifts and skills such as preaching, teaching, counseling, managing, administration, fundraising, leadership, pastoral care, etc. Which of these are your areas of strength? Which of these will be most challenging for you?
- E. Describe your most recent experience of sharing your faith with an unchurched person.
- F. Describe a time when you found yourself in a position of leadership in the church. What are your gifts for leadership?

## **SCHOLARSHIP TERMS**

I understand that receiving this scholarship is contingent upon:

- a. Submission of application with all requested attachments.
- b. Interview with scholarship committee
- c. Agreeing to sign a Ministry Covenant, wherein you agree to pursue Elders orders in the Arkansas Conference as a pastor of a local church, not other forms of ministry.
- d. Approval as a Certified Candidate with the intent of pursuing Elders Orders.
- e. Acceptance for graduate work as a full-time student at a United Methodist seminary.

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Applicant Signature

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Date



## UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF ARKANSAS SEMINARY SCHOLARSHIPS

### Ministry Covenant and Promissory Note

**DIRECTIONS:** Students selected to receive a UMFA Seminary Scholarship from the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas (“UMFA”) must read this ministry covenant and promissory note, and provide the required information and signature. A copy of this ministry covenant and promissory note is to be retained by the scholarship recipient and the original form is to be sent by the recipient to the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, 5300 Evergreen Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-1814.

Student Name:

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(first) (middle initial) (last)

### ARTICLE 1. SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

1.1. I verify that I have been accepted to attend a United Methodist seminary, AND I understand that this scholarship assistance will end if I cease to be enrolled as a full-time student in good standing in a United Methodist seminary program.

1.2. I understand that the need for well-trained, committed ministers is great in the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church. I agree, upon graduation of my seminary program, to serve under appointment of the Bishop and Cabinet of the Arkansas Conference of The United Methodist Church as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for two (2) years for each full or partial academic year I have received the Ministry Scholarship.

1.3. I agree to provide UMFA with annual written evidence of compliance with the requirements in Section 1.1, AND to notify UMFA at such time as I am not in compliance.

## ARTICLE 2. PROMISSORY NOTE

2.1. I agree that if:

- a) I fail to meet the conditions described in Article 1 (Scholarship Agreement), or
- b) I have ceased to pursue a course of study as a full-time student in a United Methodist seminary, or
- c) I fail to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for the required time commitment, or
- d) I accept appointment in any other Conference of The United Methodist Church or in any other denomination prior to the completion of my commitment to the Arkansas Conference; I will repay either the full amount of the scholarship received or a prorated amount according to the fraction of my service obligation not completed.

2.2. Collection Charges. I agree to pay all reasonable collection costs including, but not limited to, attorney fees as determined by UMFA.

2.3. Repayment: I agree to enter repayment status on the first day of the first month after the earliest to occur of any of the following:

- a) UMFA has determined that I have ceased to be enrolled in a United Methodist seminary program as a full-time student in good standing; or
- b) The date that I inform UMFA that I do not plan to fulfill my service obligation; or
- c) The date that UMFA ascertains that I have ceased serving as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference prior to fulfilling my service obligation.

2.4. I agree to make monthly payments to UMFA which cover outstanding principal and five percent (5%) annual interest, and any incurred reasonable collection costs including, but not limited to, attorney fees according to a monthly payment schedule established by UMFA, which calls for complete repayment within five (5) years after I enter repayment status (except as provided in Section 2.7).

2.5. Minimum monthly payments will include at least 1/60th of the total amount due, plus applicable interest and a portion of reasonable collection costs. If I fail to make any monthly payment as required by the schedule established by UMFA, and such failure persists for a period of 90 days, UMFA, without further notice, may declare the entire unpaid balance of the principal plus accrued interest to be immediately due, and I promise to pay such amount and reasonable collection charges including, but not limited to, attorney fees to UMFA.

2.6. It is further my understanding that if I do not make the monthly payments as required by the schedule established by UMFA, UMFA will engage in collection efforts, including notification of credit bureaus concerning my default and litigation, similar to the collection efforts which are used by lenders and guarantee agencies in the guaranteed student loan program.

2.7. Deferment. I understand that I will not be considered in violation of the repayment schedule if I promptly request a deferment in writing and am granted a deferment during the time that I am:

- a. Serving, not in excess of three (3) years, on active duty as a member of armed services of the United States.
- b. Temporarily disabled, for a period not to exceed three (3) years, as established by sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.
- c. Unable to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for a period not to exceed twelve (12) months by reason of the care required by a spouse who is disabled.
- d. Actively seeking and unable to find service as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24) months prior to initial service, or for a period not to exceed twenty-four (24 months) after initial service.
- e. During the time I qualify for any of the exceptions described in this Article 2, I need not make the scholarship repayments. In order to qualify for any of these exceptions, I must promptly notify UMFA of my claim and provide supporting documentation acceptable to UMFA. UMFA shall extend the five-year scholarship repayment period by a period equal to the length of time I meet any of the conditions in Section 2.7, or if I am unable to complete the scholarship repayments within this five-year period because of my financial condition which has been established to the satisfaction of UMFA, and on which basis UMFA has granted to me a reduced schedule of repayments reflecting my financial condition.

2.8. Cancellation. UMFA shall cancel my repayment obligation if it determines:

- a. On the basis of a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician, that I am unable to serve as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference because of an impairment that is expected to continue indefinitely or results in death.
- b. That I have become totally and permanently disabled as established by a sworn affidavit of a qualified physician.
- c. On the basis of a death certificate that is conclusive under Arkansas law.
- d. Circumstances have occurred that UMFA considers as a compelling reason to excuse repayment.

2.9. General provisions include:

- a. I agree to inform UMFA promptly in writing or electronically of any change in my name, permanent address, or other personal information during the time I am receiving scholarship assistance, OR if my service as an elder of a local church in the Arkansas Conference ceases prior to fulfilling the required time commitment, OR if there is any change in my status for which a deferment is granted to me pursuant to Section 2.7 (Deferment).

- b. I understand that I must be enrolled full-time in a United Methodist seminary program and that I must maintain satisfactory academic progress as a full-time student as determined by UMFA, and that scholarship assistance will end if I do not make satisfactory progress during any term of my enrollment.

Please indicate your acceptance of these terms and conditions by signing this ministry covenant and promissory note and returning it to the United Methodist Foundation of Arkansas, 5300 Evergreen Drive, Little Rock, Arkansas 72205-1814.

**Student Recipient Signature: My signature below certifies that I have read and agree to the commitments presented in this ministry covenant and promissory note.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Recipient's Printed Name

**UNITED METHODIST FOUNDATION OF  
ARKANSAS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
James B. Argue, Jr.  
President and CEO

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date