



The Connectional Handy-Simmons Scholarship Award

We are pleased to offer the Connectional Handy Simmons Scholarship Application for 2025-2026. Below are instructions, submission guidelines and a copy of the 2025-2026 application. The due date for submitting the Episcopal District Winner to the Connectional Education and Scholarship Chair is Monday, June 16, 2025.

Please direct any questions to Ms. Della Archie at stepebony@yahoo.com.

Eligibility:

1. Active members of the A. M. E. Church and the Young People's Division.
2. Current Freshmen, Sophomores, or Juniors who are presently pursuing a Bachelor's Degree.
3. Current First-year college students and High School Seniors enrolled in dual college credit pursuing an Associate or Technical Degree.

Criteria for Selection:

1. Academic performance
2. Quality and level of church participation
3. Leadership and extracurricular activities
4. Reference letters
5. Financial Need

Application Requirements:

1. Completed application (typed or scanned into computer).
2. Two Official Letters of Recommendation by:
 - a) Local church Pastor
 - b) Local YPD Director (or) Local Missionary President
3. Copy of most recent official transcript
4. A competitive essay written in accordance with current connectional theme provided.

Applicants must submit all requested materials to your district's designated Education and Scholarship Handy-Simmons Scholarship Commissioner or Conference Branch President or her designee.

Applications must be accurate and completed according to the directions in order to be considered.

Essay must be type-written error free and written to the current theme. No application will be considered if it is

- (1) incomplete
- (2) missing references or signatures
- (3) containing incorrect essay theme
- (4) missing current college transcript and/or
- (5) submitted after the deadline.

Certification *

I have read and understand the Eligibility Requirements, the Criteria for Selection and the Application Requirements

The Women's Missionary Society
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
Handy-Simmons Scholarship Application

Name *

First Name Last Name

Gender *

Date of Birth *

Month Day Year

Email *

example@example.com

Contact Phone *

Area Code Phone Number

Home Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City State

Zip Code Country

Parent/Guardian Information

Mother's Name

Prefix First Name Last Name Suffix

Mother's Occupation

Contact Phone

Area Code Phone Number

Father's Name

Prefix First Name Last Name Suffix

Contact Phone

Area Code Phone Number

Father's Occupation

Guardian's Name

Prefix First Name Last Name Suffix

Contact Phone

Area Code Phone Number

Guardian's Occupation

Church Information

Home Church Name *

Pastor's Name *

First Name Last Name

Episcopal District *

1-20

Church Conference *

Church Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Please list church activities you are involved in on the local, conference, district or connectional level. Please provide a brief description of each activity including the length of your involvement.

List of Church Activities *

Activity, local, conference district or connectional, description & dates

Church Information *(continued)*

Pastor's Email Address

example@example.com

Local YPD Director or WMS President Name

First Name Last Name

Local YPD Director or WMS President Email

example@example.com

District Supervisor's Name

District Supervisor's Email Address

First Name Last Name

**Handy Simmons Scholarship
Chair Person Signature**

District Supervisor's Signature



Academic Information

Academic Institution *

College/University Attending

Student Status *

Full Time

Part Time

Current Year Studies *

Est. Graduation Date *

Month Day Year

Your Declared Major *

Your Declared Minor

List School Activities *

Leadership and Extracurricular Activities

Institution's Address *

Street Address

Street Address Line 2

City

State / Province

Postal / Zip Code

Applicant: _____

Printed Name

Signature

The Handy-Simmons Scholarship Award Essay Theme and Scoring Rubric

Statistics indicate a growing trend among young Christians stepping away from traditional religious institutions, and the African Methodist Episcopal Church has not escaped this phenomenon. This movement encompasses social, personal, and institutional factors that have led to a significant shift in church attendance and participation among young Christians. As an active member of the AME Church and the Young People’s and Children’s Division, what is the reason for your continued membership in the AME Church, and how can the AME Church bridge this generational and social gap?

As you think about your approach to the essay prompt, remember three things:

- Be concise
- Be authentic
- Provide details

Criteria to be Assessed	4	3	2	1	Points Awarded
1. Focus	Engaging and fully developed essay that completely addresses the prompt.	A competent and well-developed essay that mostly addresses the prompt.	Mostly simplistic and unfocused essay that partially addresses the prompt.	Poorly developed and unfocused essay that does not address the prompt.	
2. Organization	Writing has a compelling and logical flow of ideas.	Writing has a logical flow of ideas.	Organization is rough but workable. It sometimes gets off topic.	Writing is aimless and disorganized.	
3. Word Choice	Writing uses words that are striking and fresh but natural, varied, and vivid.	Writing makes some quality but also some routine or ordinary word choices.	Writing uses words that are dull or uninspired. Writing sounds like you are trying too hard to impress.	Writing uses the same words over and over. Some words may be confusing or inappropriate.	
4. Grammar Usage and Sentence Fluency	Writing uses proper grammar 100% of the time. Sentences flow well and vary in construction and length.	Writing has a few grammar problems. Sentences flow well but do not vary much.	Writing has enough grammar errors to distract a reader. Some sentences do not flow well and/or are not varied at all.	Writing has numerous grammar mistakes and poor sentence construction that make the paper hard to read.	
5. Spelling and Punctuation	Writing uses correct punctuation and spelling 100% of the time.	Writing has a few errors to fix, but generally uses correct conventions.	Writing has enough errors in the essay to distract a reader.	Writing has numerous errors that make the paper hard to read.	

Total Points: _____

Scorer’s Name: _____

Scorer’s Signature: _____