2015 HANDY SIMMONS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

Eligibility:

1. Active members of the A. M. E. Church and the Young Peoples Department.
2. **Current Freshmen**, Sophomore, or Juniors who are presently pursuing a Bachelor’s Degree
3. **Current First-year college students 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. A letter from college/university showing current enrollment (must be on college’s letterhead).
4. A competitive essay written in accordance with connectional theme to be provided.

Applicants must submit all requested materials to the Conference 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 that is (1) incomplete (2) missing references or signatures (3) containing incorrect essay theme (4) missing letter from college register and, (5) submitted after the deadline.
Handy Simmons Scholarship
Essay Theme and Evaluation Criteria

2015 Theme for Handy Simmons Scholarship Essay

According to The Campus Vote Project, “Well over a quarter of college students reported in 2010 that they did not register to vote because they did not know where or how to register to vote; or they missed the deadline.”

Hispanic college students are less likely than White or Black students to register to vote. In 2010, just fewer than 42 percent of Hispanic college students registered to vote compared to over 56% among white students and 55% among black students.”

Write a 500 + word essay on the importance of voting. Your essay should include why you vote, or do not vote. If you are a voter, identify strategies you would use to encourage African American and Latino students to vote. Please present a compelling argument in light of the last elections in your state in support of voting, even if you did not vote in the last election.

Conclude your essay on whether you believe it is important for Christians to vote or not vote in America.

Essays will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Content:

1. The typed essay is to be a minimum of 500 words but not to exceed 1000 words.
2. The topic is clearly addressed.
3. Ideas are developed and support the topic.
4. The writing demonstrates a sense of completeness.

Grammatical Structure:

1. Free of run-on sentences and sentence fragments.
2. Correct subject/verb agreement and verb tense.
3. Correct use of singular and plural noun forms.
4. Correct/appropriate use of punctuation
5. Appropriate/ correct word choice.

Organization:

1. The ideas flow and fit together.
2. The details are sequential in logical order
3. The writing has a clear beginning, middle, and end.
4. The ideas are presented in varied and innovative use of words, phrases, and sentences.
The Women’s Missionary Society
Of The African Methodist Episcopal Church
Connectional Handy-Simmons Scholarship Application

Name________________________________________________________ M__F__
Home Address________________________________________________________________________
Home telephone number (___) _________________________ Date of Birth________
Age____________ Number of Dependents________

Parent’s Name and Occupation:

Mother________________________________________________________________
Father
OR
Other Guardian______________________________________________________________

Church Membership:

Name and Address of Church:________________________________________
Pastor: _________________________________________________________________
Conference: _________________________ Episcopal District: ________________

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

Academic Background:

Please provide the name and address of the College or University in which you are currently
enrolled or the one to which you have been accepted. _____Full Time ____Part Time
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Major_______________________ Minor_________________________
Undeclared___________________ Current Year In Studies: ________________
Projected Graduation Date: ________
Academic Honors:
Dean’s List: ______ Yes ______ Year

What other sources of financial aid (loans, scholarships, and grants) are you currently receiving or have applied for?
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Please be certain that you have completed the entire application, attached all requested materials. Submit materials to your Conference Branch Handy Simmons Commissioner or Conference *WMS Conference President if there is no Commissioner.

Required Signatures:

Applicant: ___________________________________________ Date: _____

Local YPD Director or Local Missionary President: _________________________ Date: _____

*Conference Handy-Simmons Scholarship Commissioner: _________________________ Date: _____

Episcopal District Handy-Simmons Commissioner: _________________________ Date: _____

Episcopal Supervisor: _________________________ Date: _____
APPLICATION DUE DATES AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

1. Applications are due to Conference Branch Commissioners or Conference YPD Directors by April 1, 2015. If an application is incomplete it must be returned to the student for completion.

2. Conference Commissioners please ensure the application packets are complete and submit them to your Episcopal Commissioners by May 1, 2015.

Please mail completed application packet by May 1, 2015 to:
Tammy McCottry-Brown
7th Episcopal District Handy Simmons Scholarship Commissioner
1019 Diana Street
Charleston, South Carolina 29407
(843) 597-8810 (cell)
(843) 766-1126 (home)
tammymcbrown@gmail.com

2015 THEME FOR APPLICATION ESSAY

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