

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge Memorial Scholarship Application

85 Heritage Drive, PO box 420
Tallmadge, OH 44278
330-633-4931

March 2021

Dear Scholarship Applicant,

Thank you for your interest in applying for a First Congregational Church Memorial Scholarship. This Scholarship Program remains a source of pride for the congregation, as it carries with it a rich history of giving and opportunity for deserving church members.

Eligible candidates are church members who are graduating or who have graduated from high school and who are pursuing higher education in trade or vocational schools, two- or four-year colleges or universities, or Master's or Doctoral programs.

Please take the time to review carefully and understand fully the enclosed application components and requirements as well as the published selection process. ***Be sure all required components are complete and accounted for prior to submitting your application. Incomplete applications will not be considered for scholarships.***

In brief, the required application components are as follows:

1. Completed application form
 - Contact Information
 - Academic Information/Extracurricular Involvement
 - Church Involvement
 - Defense of Scholarship Candidacy
 - Certification and Signature
2. Minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0
 - ***Confirmed via an official transcript from the current high school or college/university, delivered electronically to the church (emailed to tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net)***
3. 500-600-word essay, answering a two-part prompt (prompt changes yearly)

Completed Applications are due, delivered ***in person*** to the church office or the Completed Scholarship Applications box on the Welcome Center in the Atrium, no later than Sunday, April 25, 2021. ***In order to ensure equity of opportunity for all candidates, late applications will not be considered for scholarships.***

Please reach out to this year's Scholarship Committee Chair, Missy Newcomer, with any questions.
Phone: 330-688-8313 (H); 330-329-6364 (M)
Email: mnewc2776@gmail.com

First Congregational Church of Tallmadge Scholarship Selection Process

Funds available for scholarships are determined yearly by the Investments and Endowments Committee based on availability of interest money earned on investments. Certain scholarships are designated for specific areas of study.

The Scholarship Committee will meet to review and make any necessary changes/updates to the Official Application and requirements for candidacy prior to distribution.

Applications are made available in March and are due in late April. *To ensure equity for all applicants, late and/or incomplete applications will not be eligible for scholarships.*

Before application information is shared with the Scholarship Committee, the church Administrative Assistant or other objective, impartial church official will collect all applications, remove candidate names, and assign a unique control number to each application. This is to ensure impartial consideration of each application by all committee members.

Applicable components of the application are worth a designated number of points toward the overall Scholarship Application score. Each member will review all components of each application and, using calibrated rubrics and scoring formulas, will assign points earned for each component.

Scored components:

- Cumulative GPA: 10 points (4-point-scale GPA multiplied by 2.5 to achieve the 10-point scale)
- Extracurricular Involvement: 30 points
- Church Activity and Involvement: 40 points
- Defense of Candidacy: 10 points
- Essay: 40 points

Once all members of the Scholarship Committee have reviewed and scored all applications, the committee will reconvene to compare results.

Appropriate qualifying scores will be determined each year based on the number of applications received and the compilation of scores earned overall. Scholarship recipients will be determined based on the score deemed appropriate by the committee.

Scholarship Committee members will agree to consider every application fairly, professionally, and objectively; to follow the calibrated scoring system to fidelity; and to keep all discussions regarding applications, scholarships awarded, and amounts given confidential.

**First Congregational Church of Tallmadge
Official Scholarship Application**

Please print neatly using blue or black ink.

OFFICE USE ONLY
Candidate Control
Number:

Contact Information:

Last Name:		First Name:		MI:	
Street Address:					
City:		Zip:			
Home Phone:			Mobile Phone:		
Email:					

Please Plan Ahead...

Cumulative Grade Point Averages will be confirmed via official school transcripts (report cards will not be accepted); all applications must be accompanied by one of the following:

- **Graduating High School Seniors:** An official high school transcript
- **Undergraduate/Trade Students:** An official transcript from the trade school, college, or university reflecting the most updated cumulative grade point average
- **Graduate Students:** An official transcript from the college or university reflecting the most updated cumulative grade point average of graduate-level work

We understand that paper transcripts are no longer being issued. Please arrange to have the electronic version of your official transcript emailed to the church at the following address:

tallmadgefcc@sbcglobal.net. ***Please note: it may take some time to obtain transcripts from the learning institutions from which you request them. You are advised to begin the request process as soon as possible.*** Once you arrange to have your transcript emailed to the church, you may call at any time during office hours to check its arrival.

Cumulative Grade Point Average will account for 10 points of the Scholarship Candidate's overall score. Individual class grades, though reflected on transcripts, will not be considered.

Defense of Scholarship Candidacy:

In a well-developed paragraph, explain why you should be selected to receive one of the available scholarships offered through the First Congregational Church of Tallmadge. Be specific and include relevant evidence that will help convince the Scholarship Committee of your candidacy. If you need more space, you may continue on the back of this page. *This response is worth 10 points of your overall Scholarship Application score.*

Essay:

Enclose a separate, typed, double-spaced, fully-developed and well-organized essay that responds to the following two-part prompt. Your essay must be a minimum of 500 words (maximum 600). Include a word count. Use Times New Roman font, size 12 or 14. *The essay is worth 40 points of your overall Scholarship Application score.*

2021 Essay Prompt (two parts):

- A. What influences in your life, including Christian people and the church, have contributed to your understanding and appreciation of the church, God, and Jesus Christ? Be as specific as possible in explaining how and in what ways your relationship with the church and Christian people have impacted your faith journey so far.
- B. How has this past year's COVID-19 experience impacted and tested your faith, hope, and trust in God?

OFFICE USE ONLY
Candidate Control
Number:

Certification and Signature:

I hereby certify that all information contained in this application, including the information included in its appendices (essay, transcripts, etc.), is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge. ***I understand that any falsification of information will result in the immediate disqualification of my application.***

I have read and understand the Scholarship application and selection process as it has been explained in the enclosed information. ***I understand that completing this application does not guarantee my being awarded a scholarship or a specific amount of scholarship money.***

I understand that being awarded a scholarship in previous years does not guarantee I will be awarded a scholarship again this year.

Signed: _____

Date: _____