

January 2012

Dear Scholarship Applicant,

God's blessings to you as you prepare for your future endeavors. First Congregational United Church of Christ, Janesville is blessed with four scholarship funds for members of our congregation who are pursuing higher education. Active membership in First Congregational Church is a common requirement for all scholarships. Some funds may be used by anyone regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, type of education being pursued. One has an age limit, one limits the total number of grants any one individual, and one is restricted to seminary education. There are funds available for most any kind of additional education thanks to the generous forethought and generosity of past and present members of this congregation. Below is a brief summary of each of our scholarship funds to help you with filling out the attached application.

- In 1997 Ted and Faye Bidwell established the ***Bidwell Scholarship Fund*** to assist congregational members under the age of twenty-seven (27). Criteria for this scholarship are active participation in the life, ministry, and mission of First Congregational Church, high scholastic achievement, and financial need. Grants from this fund are limited to two per person.
- ***Saenger Frick, McBlair, Lee Scholarship*** - First Congregational membership, financial need, application quality, and educational goals are some of the criteria for consideration and awards.
- The ***Griswold Scholarship Fund*** is designated for support of students seeking theological seminary education.
- ***The General Scholarship Fund*** - One must be a member of this congregation to be eligible for a scholarship. There are no restrictions to age, frequency of grants or education sought. This is our most open and flexible fund.

In late April you will receive a letter indicating whether you have been awarded a scholarship and if so, in what amount. Scholarship checks are made out to your college's admission office and are sent to you. **It is your responsibility to see that the check is sent to your college's admission office.**

Incomplete or incomprehensible application forms do not help your request. Please be sure all necessary information is in the church office by **March 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Each year the Church publicizes in *The Janesville Gazette* news of the recipients of its scholarships. We like to share a picture and information about our recipients in the event the committee grants you a scholarship. Please return a recent photograph of yourself, the application form and your most recent grade transcript by the **March 12<sup>th</sup>** deadline. We will return the photo to you.

Finally, should you receive a scholarship grant from the Bidwell Scholarship Fund; an expression of gratitude to the Bidwells is both appropriate and appreciated. We encourage you to write them directly.

Please contact Carrie Kolanda in the church office (608) 752-8716 or [firstcon@tds.net](mailto:firstcon@tds.net) with your questions.

The Scholarship Committee

# Scholarship Application

## First Congregational United Church of Christ

Janesville, WI

The scholarships available are designed to assist persons in their educational advancement. Applicants may seek support for vocational preparation in technical, collegiate, or post-graduate work, may be of any age and must be members of the congregation.

There are two separate scholarship funds for which this application may be used. The qualifications and purposes, although similar, are not identical. Please indicate below to which of the scholarship funds you are applying. This form may be used for both. **Please print in black ink or type.**

**This application is to be consider for: (Please check all you are eligible for)**

Bidwell Scholarship

Saenger, Frick, McBlair, Lee Scholarship

General Scholarship

Griswold Memorial Fund Scholarship

### Section I

1. Please attach a copy of a transcript of your grades from high school, technical school and/or college.
2. Name: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_
5. High School Attended: \_\_\_\_\_
6. College Attended: \_\_\_\_\_
- 6a. Level Completed: \_\_\_\_\_
7. What college(s) will you attend, or are considering attending next year: (In order of preference)

Name of School	Have you applied?	Been accepted?	Applied for financial aid?

(The scholarship committees will expect that you have applied for financial aid at your school(s) if your application to the church is based on need.)



c. Community: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

d. Work experiences: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

e. Awards, achievements, positions of leadership: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. On a separate sheet of paper or below please write a **brief** essay answering the following question:

Why do you feel you should receive this scholarship?

Section II

1. Estimated expenses for the next academic year.  
 (Please give figures for the school you plan to attend or if undecided, your first-choice school.  
 Figures may be average costs indicated by the school.)

<b>Tuition:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Room and Board:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Books:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Other: (Please explain)</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>

2. Estimated assets - how do you plan to meet the above expenses?

<b>Personal savings:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Parental support:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Scholarships or grants:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Student loan:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Job at school:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Financial aid package:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Income from spouse:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Work study:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>Other - Specify:</b>	<b>\$</b>
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$</b>

3. Family financial status - a primary concern of the scholarship committees in determining the amount of scholarship aid to be given is financial need. There are ways you can help the committee understand your family's financial situation.

If you have the following information, please include it. (Without this information, the committees are limited in their ability to give your application the full and equitable consideration it deserves.)

- A. A copy of either your Acknowledgment form or Student Aid Report (S.A.R.) from the College Scholarship Service. You would receive this report after submitting the Wisconsin Financial Aid Form (F.A.F.) These forms are available from high school counselors of higher educational institutions / financial aid offices.

**OR**

- B. A copy of your FAFSA Confirmation Report indicating student need. This is available from high school counselors or higher educational institutions / financial aid offices.
- C. If you have not received this information back from the need analysis agency prior to the either or both scholarship application closing dates, you may submit a completed copy of the FAFSA with this application.

**IF YOU DO NOT HAVE THE ABOVE INFORMATION  
PLEASE FILL OUT THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

1. Are there circumstances in your family, which limit the ability of parents to provide financial support?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Indicate your family's **gross income**, including income from investments, other sources, income from both parents; or income for yourself and spouse.) Remember this is gross income, not taxable income. Unusual circumstances could be explained in number 1.

**It is the policy of the First Congregational Church scholarship committees  
to treat all scholarship applications sensitively and confidentially.**

It has become our policy to announce the scholarship awards in the local newspaper. If for some reason you wish not to have your name included, should you be an awardee, please notify the church at 752-8716. We will also need a photo for the newspaper article. A yearbook head shot would be appropriate. Please hand in your photograph with your application for everyone's convenience.