



Emerging Scholarship Application - Investing in a New Generation

The American Baptist Churches of New Jersey is committed to mentoring and developing leaders to be ready and relevant for the future. This is one reason why we provide Emerging Scholarships. The leadership development and mentoring of a new generation of ecclesial leadership is critical. This is why we also provide scholarships for seminarians. These scholarships are provided to persons from ABCNJ churches in *covenant** with the region. Applicants must be enrolled in an undergraduate or professional degree program from an accredited institution: (two or four years) Associate, Bachelor of Arts/Science or Master of Religious Education (M.R.E.) or Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or equivalent.

You are strongly recommended to participate in and respond to e-mail requests and leadership development and mentoring events associated with the Emerging Scholars Program.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS (New and Returning Emerging Scholars)

Applicants must submit a **complete** 5-part application and include all required documentation listed below, or your application **will not be reviewed**. All documentation must be submitted on or before **April 30, 2024**. **Application submission does not guarantee an award.**

Application Form

1. Two letters of recommendation from the following:
 1. Pastor (printed on the church's letterhead) Your church must be in **covenant*** with the Region.
 2. Professor, Teacher or Guidance Counselor or Academic Advisor
3. A copy of your transcript that includes your Spring 2024 grades
4. Submit a resume that includes your involvement in school, church, community, and internships.
5. Choose one of the following essay topics to write about. The length of the essay should be 500 words (about 2 pages, typed and doubled spaced). Times Roman Font - 12 pt. **Please include your name/church/date and topic of essay. If you are a returning applicant, make sure you select a new essay topic.**
 - a) Describe your most meaningful achievement and how it relates to your field of study and future goals. Include how your faith has influenced your goals.
 - b) As defined by Merriam-Webster, "Character is the way someone thinks, feels, and behaves." Essentially, it's what makes you who you are. Describe a time in your life that has shaped who you are as a person. Include how your faith has shaped who you are
 - c) If you had the opportunity to change your school, community or church in a positive way, what specific changes would you make and why? How does your faith impact the way you think and go about changes?
 - d) How has your church and family background impacted your faith and the way you see the world?
 - e) Describe an event in (school, church or community) in which you took a leadership role. What did you learn about yourself? What leadership characteristics did you exemplify? What role did your faith play in your leadership?

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS: (New and Returning Seminarians)

Applicants must submit a **complete** 5-part application and include all required documentation listed below, or your application **will not be reviewed**. All documentation must be submitted on or before **April 30, 2024. Application submission does not guarantee an award.**

1. Application Form
2. Two letters of recommendation from the following:
 1. Pastor (printed on the church's letterhead)
 2. Professor, Academic Advisor
3. A copy of your transcript that includes you Spring 2024 grades
4. Submit a resume
5. Choose one of the following essay topics to write about. The essay must be at least 750 words, (about 3 pages typed and double-spaced), Times Roman Font -12 pt. **Please include your name/church/date and topic of essay. If you are a returning applicant, please select a new essay topic.**
 - a) Please address your sense of call to ministry / vocation, your unique gifts for this ministry / vocation, and how a seminary education will assist you in meeting your vocational intentions.
 - b) Describe how your seminary education has impacted the way you lead and teach in your current ministry context.
 - c) Tell us about a time when you challenged your pre-existing worldview. Why? Would you do this again? Make sure that you share an example of how you can listen to experiences and perspectives contrary to your own with respect and maturity and how your faith impacts your pre-existing worldview.

Applicant Information

September 2024 I will be a **seminarian**

Part time () Full time ()

(Circle One) 1st year 2nd year 3rd year

September 2024 I will be a **college student**

Part time () Full time ()

(Circle One) Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Last Name _____ First Name _____ Middle Initial _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Date of Birth: _____

E:Mail: _____ Phone (indicate cell or home) _____

(Can this number receive text messages?)

Have you previously been awarded an ABCNJ Emerging Scholarship? ____ Yes ____ No _____ Year Awarded

Education

Current School Name _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: () _____

Cumulative GPA: _____

Anticipated Degree: _____

(Intended) Major / Field of Study: _____

Expected Date of Graduation: _____

Church Membership and Involvement

Church Membership _____

How long (number of years) have you been a member / attended this church? _____

I participate in the life of the church in the following ways:

- ____ Sunday school / small group ministry
- ____ Music ministry
- ____ Media ministry
- ____ Youth / Young adult programming
- ____ Attend worship
- ____ Lead / participate in worship
- ____ Outreach / Mission ministry
- ____ Serve on church board / committee
- ____ Other (please list)

How are you staying involved with and growing in your faith while in school?

- ____ Attending my home church regularly
- ____ Attending a different church while at school
- ____ Involved in campus ministry
- ____ Participate in Bible Study / Small Group ministry
- ____ Personal devotion
- ____ Volunteer with faith-based groups (please list)

- ____ Other (please list)

Career / Ministry Interest(s)

Career / Ministry Goal: _____

Relevant Internship or Work Experience (this should be noted in your resume)

References

Give the names of two references - one pastoral and the other academic. Applicants must submit reference letters from each.

____ **Pastoral**

Reference Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Email: _____

____ **Academic**

Reference Name: _____

Address 1: _____

Address 2: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone () _____

Email: _____

Bursar Information

Provide the following information for the college/university/seminary where the scholarship award should be directed.

Name of College/University/Seminary _____

Bursar/Financial Aid Office Address 1: _____

Bursar/Financial Aid Office Address 2: _____

Bursar/Financial Aid Office City/State/Zip: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Scholarship Terms and Conditions

Undergraduate - 8 ABCNJ Emerging Scholar awards in the amount of \$1,000 for full time students.

Seminarian - 8 ABCNJ Emerging Scholar awards in the amount of \$1,500 for full time students.

Please note: If you are a part time student your award will be adjusted.

Scholarship recipients must enroll in and attend a two or four year college/university or seminary in the academic year following their selection. **Verification of enrollment is required (i.e. tuition receipt, letter from the registrar's/bursar's office, class schedule certifying enrollment).**

Scholarship awards will be paid via check directly to the accredited institution in which the student enrolls. *Awards will NOT be paid directly, nor reimbursed to an award recipient.*

Scholarship applications and all requested documents must be received at the ABCNJ office no later than **April 30, 2024**. **Incomplete applications will not be reviewed.**

***Applicants are responsible for consulting with their pastor to ensure their church is in covenant with the American Baptist Churches of New Jersey. Sponsoring churches must be in covenant with ABCNJ. This includes giving to either United Mission and/or ABCNJ Region Offering in 2022/2023 and participating in associational and regional events, such as the Annual Session. If your church is not in covenant, you will not be eligible for the scholarship. Call the ABCNJ office if you are not sure.**

Certification and Authorization

All of the information that I have provided in the application and in the enclosed letters/ documentation are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I certify that I am currently enrolled and in good standing as an undergraduate student or seminarian and will attend a two or four year college/ university or seminary.

Applicant Signature (required)_____Date_____

Parent/Guardian Signature_____Date_____

(Required if the applicant is under 18 years of age)

Mail application and all supporting documents to:

American Baptist Churches of New Jersey
Emerging Scholarship

3752 Nottingham Way - Trenton, NJ 08690

Attention: Ms. Elle Ross

or

email to Elle Ross at

eross@abcnj.net

APPLICATION DEADLINE: APRIL 30, 2024

All 2024-2025 ABCNJ Emerging Scholarship decisions will be communicated to you by July 1, 2024.