

# **The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church**

## **2026 Bishop T. Larry Kirkland Scholarship of Excellence**

The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, Bishop T. Larry Kirkland Scholarship of Excellence was established to assist young men and women of the 5<sup>th</sup> District to obtain a college education. The Bishop T. Larry Kirkland scholarship for two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) dollars will be awarded to one deserving student. The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization administers this scholarship program.

### **I. PURPOSE OF THIS SCHOLARSHIP**

- a. To recognize and reward the educational excellence of college students who plan to return to an accredited institution the following college term.
- b. To encourage young people to be actively involved in the Lay Organization of the AME Church.

### **II. CRITERIA FOR ELIGIBILITY**

- a. Applicants must be a member of their local AME Church for at least 12 months and must either be an active member of the Lay Organization or in another ministry of the church organization.
- b. Applicants must be currently enrolled in an accredited institution of higher learning with a GPA of at least 2.5.

#### **c. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS**

Contact your Local Lay Organization for an application or from the 5th District Lay Organization: [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com)

- d. Applicants must send the committee an official transcript from the college registrar of the school attended. **(Official transcripts may be scanned as pdf as long as the seal appears on the transcript.)**
- e. A personal essay (300 – 500 words) that describes (NOTE: essay should include all five elements below):
  1. Your long-range plans
  2. Community **AND** church involvement
  3. Accomplishments or special awards
  4. Challenges you have faced
  5. How you responded to your challenges
- f. Three (3) letters of recommendation. (1. Teacher/Counselor; 2. Church member/Pastor; and 3. Letter from your local Lay Organization or other Church Ministry to verify church membership and participation in church programs.  
**LETTERS FROM RELATIVES ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE.**

- d. A 5"x7" color photograph **must** be submitted with the application.
- e. All materials must be **postmarked or received electronically by the May 15, 2026** deadline. **NO EXCEPTIONS.** [Any questions must be directed to the email address [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com). in a timely manner **PRIOR to the deadline.** **PLEASE NO PHONE CALLS.]**

#### **IV. SELECTION PROCESS**

The applicants will be scored by a judging committee comprised of members of the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The judges will evaluate eligible students based on their academic record, quality of the essay, letters of recommendation, accomplishments and the level of participation in church activities. The winner will be announced in July 2026

#### **V. AWARD DISTRIBUTION**

Two checks in the amount of \$1,000.00 each will be issued by the 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in the name of the Bishop T. Larry Kirkland Scholarship to the selected student at the beginning of the fall and spring semesters. The checks will be awarded after proof of enrollment for each semester. (Adjustments will be made for schools on the quarter system.)

**The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization  
of the African Methodist Episcopal Church  
2026 Bishop T. Larry Kirkland Scholarship Application**

Application Deadline: **MAY 15, 2026**  
(See Criteria for Eligibility – **(Please Type)**)

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**COLLEGE INFORMATION**

College you are attending \_\_\_\_\_

Your Major/Minor \_\_\_\_\_

College Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

Home Church \_\_\_\_\_ Annual Conference \_\_\_\_\_

# The 5<sup>th</sup> District Lay Organization of the African Methodist Episcopal Church

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION PACKET FOR 2026 BISHOP T. LARRY KIRKLAND SCHOLARSHIP OF EXCELLENCE

Application Deadline: **MAY 15, 2026**

### Checklist

The following is a list of qualifications and items that **MUST** be submitted in order for a scholarship application to be considered. Every candidate must be able to check each line, or the candidate is disqualified.

As a candidate for this Lay Organization scholarship, I affirm the following:

- I have an academic average of "C" or better (2.5 on a 4.0 scale).
- I am a currently enrolled college student at an accredited college or university.
- I am submitting a completed scholarship application form (copies are acceptable).
- I have attached an official college transcript (**30% of score**).
- I have composed the requested personal essay (300 – 500 words) and *it has been proofread* for typing errors,  
grammar, structure, organization, content and clarity (**30% of score**).
- I have attached three (3) letters of reference, one of which is a letter verifying church membership and participation in the Lay Organization or other church ministry (**15% of score**).
- I have a list of all of my school and community extracurricular activities (**15% of score**).
- Submit a 5 x 7 color photo (**10% of score**).
- My name appears on **ALL** attachments.

Your signature below signifies you have checked each line above and therefore affirm each statement. After signing, attach this form to the front of your application. **Applications will not be reviewed without the checklist attached.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Name (TYPE)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Application materials should be scanned as pdf and e-mailed no later than May 15, 2026 to: [fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com](mailto:fifthdistrictscholarship@yahoo.com). If necessary, mail application to:

**Bishop T. Larry Kirkland Scholarship of Excellence**  
**Attn: Dorothy Vails-Weber -7489 Gorge View Terrace San Diego, Ca. 92120**