

**THE WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY
AFRICAN METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Connectional Handy Simmons Scholarship Commission
Dr. Shirley Cason-Reed, International President
Women's Missionary Society
Ms. Lesa C. Halfacre, Second Vice-President and Chair,
Mission Education and Interpretation
Dr. Loretta Lillard, Connectional Commissioner,
Handy Simmons Scholarship Commission**

January, 2016

**TO: Episcopal Supervisors, Episcopal District Presidents,
Episcopal District Commissioners for the Handy-Simmons Scholarship Commission
Conference Presidents and Conference Commissioners for the Handy-Simmons
Scholarship Commission**

**FR: Dr. Shirley Cason-Reed, President
Ms. Lisa C. Halfacre, 2nd Vice President and Chair
Mission Education and Interpretation
Dr. Loretta Lillard, Connectional Commissioner,
Handy Simmons Scholarship**

RE: 2016 Handy Simmons Scholarship Applications

We are pleased to offer Handy Simmons Scholarship/Book Awards for 2016. Enclosed are instructions, submission guidelines and a copy of the 2016 application. The due dates for submitting the application to the respective level are also included.

Please direct any questions to Loretta Lillard at lorettahowell@yahoo.com.

Enclosures

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2016 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. Copy of official transcript
4. A competitive essay written in accordance with current connectional theme 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 if it is (1) incomplete (2) missing references or signatures (3) containing incorrect essay theme (4) missing current college transcript and/or (5) submitted after the deadline.

Handy Simmons Scholarship Essay Theme and Evaluation Criteria

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.
6. Free of spelling errors.

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**

Handy-Simmons Scholarship Application

Name _____ M ____ F ____

Home Address _____ Zip Code _____

Home telephone number (____) _____ Date of Birth _____ Age _____

Parent's Name and Occupation:

Mother _____

Father or Other _____

Guardian _____

Church Membership:

Name of Church: _____

Address _____

Pastor: _____

Name of 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 activity 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. _____ 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 **March 31, 2016**. Conference Commissioners will ensure the application packets are complete and will submit them to the Episcopal Commissioners **by April 30, 2016**. If an application is incomplete it must be returned to the student for completion. Do not forward incomplete applications.
2. The Episcopal Commissioners will evaluate and rank the applicants on the appropriate form. Upon completion, the Episcopal Commissioners will submit completed applications to the Episcopal Supervisor for signature and mail them to the Connectional Commissioner by **May 31, 2016**.
3. The Connectional Commissioner will review the applications and make recommendations to the Connectional President to award the Handy Simmons Scholarships by **June, 2016**.

2016 ESSAY THEME

Write an essay 500-1000 word comparing these three religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. You will not be evaluated on the length, but on the substance and accuracy. The essay is intended to compare major principles of each religion, and not to judge others' beliefs.

Make sure that the comparisons are genuine, clear and specific. Include the main beliefs of the religion and how it impact on their lives.

You may use multiple resources including the internet and books. However, it is important that you give a reference for each resource. See example below.

According to Janice Martin in the book World Religions, (1999), most students have a general understanding of world religions. Use whatever citation format you are familiar with, such as APA style.