

New Hope Baptist Church Robert W. Hamilton and The Rev. J. V. Williams Scholarship Awards

Guidelines and Forms

(Note to Applicant: *Please read this entire document before submitting an application. The Pathways to Education Ministry (PTE) oversees the scholarship funds, the application process, and the selection of recipients. The PTE Scholarship Committee through its chairperson, accepts and processes applications, selects awardees according to guidelines and submits documents for payment of the awards. Any questions you may have as an applicant or recipient may be directed to PTE through the church office. Please also note that applicants and recipients will receive notice of changes made to the guidelines)*

INTRODUCTION

New Hope Baptist Church offers two scholarship opportunities to encourage members to continue to pursue the benefits of education: the R.W. Hamilton Scholarship Award and the J.V. Williams Scholarship Award.

The R.W. Hamilton Scholarship Award is presented to students that have earned a high school diploma or GED with a grade point average of 2.0 and above and that meet all of the criteria according to the guidelines. The amount of this award will not exceed \$500 per request.

This fund is named in honor of R.W. Hamilton. He and his wife Carrie — both deceased — were members of New Hope. They were parents of one son, Bobby, and a daughter Pamela. Pamela Hamilton Hull is presently a member of New Hope.

From 1950 until 1959, the year he passed, Brother Hamilton was an energetic, diligent and very serviceable member. He served as a Trustee and Deacon, a member of the Needle Club, the Senior Choir, and the Senior Usher Board and was a strong supporter of the Pastor's Aide.

When Brother Hamilton was a member of the Needle Club, the group began an educational fund to encourage high school graduates. After he told the Director of New Hope's Baptist Training Union (BTU) about the fund, the director immediately began appropriating funds for this purpose. In a few years, the Junior Mission began to make monthly contributions.

In 1959, all working units in the church joined in and increased the fund to \$500 as a memorial to Brother Hamilton for the services he had rendered.

Memories of Brother Hamilton are kept alive through the fund and the hundreds of people that have been helped.

The Rev. J. V. Williams Memorial Scholarship Award is presented to four students — two undergraduate and two graduate that have a grade point average of 3.0 or above and that have earned a high school diploma if applying as an undergraduate student or has earned a bachelor's degree if applying as a graduate student and that meet all criteria according to the guidelines. The amount of this award will not exceed \$800 per request.

This fund is named in memory of Rev. John Vanion Williams who served as pastor at New Hope for more than four decades — the longest serving pastor. He was called and voted to be Pastor April 16, 1949 and served until the Lord called him home June 10, 1987.

Under the leadership of Pastor Williams, the congregation moved from its church home on Finney Street to its second building at 882 Caulfield Avenue S.W.

On June 19, 1983, New Hope members held their last service at 882 Caulfield and marched to the newly constructed, and current church home at 130 Delaware S.W. for an entrance service.

Pastor Williams encouraged members of the church family to use their gifts to help to improve the quality of life for adults and youth, inside and outside the church walls, with strong attention to youth.

At 882 Caulfield, he organized the New Hope Lunch Program in 1968 for needy children of Franklin School to walk to the church for a free lunch; thus, paving the way for the beginning of the hot lunch program in local public elementary schools.

Membership grew under Pastor Williams' leadership; so did ministry programming. Some such as The Senior Mission, the Tape Ministry, New Member Orientation, Men's Day, Women's Day, Vacation Bible Classes and the church's bowling teams are still in existence.

Pastor Williams had a gift for teaching. He led Sunday School teacher's classes, engaged with the youth as teacher in BTU, and seldom missed the review of the lesson at the assembly for Sunday School classes.

He valued education and encouraged members to do the same. The R.W. Hamilton Scholarship was started under his leadership upon the suggestion of Deacon Robert Hamilton. The J.V. Williams Scholarship was established in memoriam to his legacy.

CRITERIA FOR APPLYING

A person that has been a **member** of New Hope for 6 months and that meets all of the following criteria shall be eligible to apply:

1. Has received the Right Hand of Fellowship.
2. Is/Was **actively** working in at least in one ministry or auxiliary at the time of the initial application. **Please Note:** The word actively refers to being involved with a ministry or auxiliary.
3. Is a member of a family contributing to tithes/offerings in accordance with the church by-laws.
4. Is enrolled at a college, university or in a vocational/career training program.
5. Is willing to submit with the application a signed Information Release Form from the college/school to confirm that he/she is enrolled and is in good standing at the institution, academic and otherwise.
6. Has a grade point average of 2.0 and above.
7. Has the requisite credentials — a high school diploma or GED if applying as an undergraduate student or a bachelor's or master's degree if applying as a graduate student.

HOW TO APPLY

1. The Application Form and an Information Release Form are available at the church office. **Note:** The PTE Scholarship Committee uses the Information Release Form to

verify the applicant's grade point average and that the applicant is in good standing at the university.

2. Complete and submit both forms to the Church Secretary by each deadline. First time applicants must also submit your most recent official transcript.

DEADLINES FOR APPLYING

A member must apply or re-apply by the following dates:

October 15 for the Fall Semester or Term

February 15 for the Winter/Spring Semester or Term

GUIDELINES FOR SELECTION OF AWARDEES:

1. Church office staff shall verify that the applicant is a member of New Hope and then forward the forms to the Chairperson of the PTE Scholarship Committee.
2. Members of the PTE Scholarship Committee shall select award recipients from among applicants that meet all of the criteria and shall inform applicants of the decision by October 30 for the first semester/term and by February 28 for the second semester under the following conditions:
 - a. The number of awards and the amount awarded for scholarship grants shall be based on the number of awardees and the amount budgeted.
 - b. Awards shall be limited to one per member once in the fall semester/term and once in the spring semester/term. No awards are made in the summer.
 - c. A member may not receive an award more than **8 times** as an undergraduate student or more than **4 times** as a graduate level student.
4. After receiving a scholarship award, the applicant must provide proof of good academic standing in order to receive further assistance. If there is a question about academic standing, the applicant shall be required to present an official transcript to the committee.
5. To continue eligibility, the recipient is required to have enrolled in and completed at least 12 credit hours as an undergraduate or at least 6 credit hours as a graduate in the prior semester/term. Guidelines do not permit "taking a semester" off. A student that withdraws or fails to enroll at the college, university or vocation/career training site the following semester will no longer be considered eligible to receive a scholarship.
6. Relatives of members of the selection committee that meet the criteria may be eligible for scholarship assistance. The committee member shall not participate in selection when a relative is an applicant.

APPLICATION FORM

R. W. HAMILTON And JOHN V. WILLIAMS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

Please print your answers. You may use the other side of this page if needed to add more information. Please return the completed application to the church office by the deadline stated in the scholarship guidelines.

Date: _____

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

1. How long have you been a member of New Hope? _____

2. Have you received the Right Hand of Fellowship? _____

3. What ministries/auxiliaries are you currently working in at New Hope

4. _____

College/University where enrolled Major Date to Graduate

5. Degree to Receive: _____ Certificate _____ Associate Degree _____ Bachelor's Degree

_____ Master's Degree _____ Doctorate

6. Current Grade Point Average (GPA) _____

(Attach a copy of your most recent academic transcript to this form if a first-time applicant)

7. List below any extra – curricular activities (including school/college activities, community service, leadership positions held and other areas of interest). Use the other side of this page if needed:

8. Awards Received: _____

9. Current Work Experience (part-time and/or full time, paid internships, work study):

This form has to be completed by the Registrar at the college/school where you are enrolled, after add & drop deadlines. Please complete all information so that this request can be processed in a timely manner. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

New Hope Baptist Church Educational Fund Information Release Form

Date: _____

Student's Name: _____

Social Security Number: _____ Phone: _____

Home Address: _____
Street

_____ City State Zip

Student's Signature: _____

To the Registrar: I am requesting that you fill in **all** the spaces below to verify my enrollment status and return this sheet to: EDUCATIONAL FUND COMMITTEE, c/o Mrs. Carolyn Tate, New Hope Baptist Church, 130 Delaware SW, Grand Rapids, MI 49507 or fax to (616) 452-0644. **To be completed after the add/drop period.**

Yes _____	No _____	Currently Enrolled
Yes _____	No _____	Enrolled During Previous Semester/Term
Yes _____	No _____	In Good Academic Standing
_____ GPA		
_____ Number of Credit Hours Present Semester/Term		
_____ Total Number of Credit Hours Attempted		
_____ Total Number of Credit Hours Accumulated/Earned		

Registrar's Signature: _____

Registrar's Name (Print): _____ Phone: _____

School/College: _____