



*American Baptist Churches of the  
Great Rivers Region*

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February 2, 2026

Scholarship Applicant:

Please see the following documents regarding the Great Rivers Region Shurtleff and Harold O. Long Scholarships. Please note the guidelines included for each scholarship. Scholarships are not awarded for work beyond the doctoral level. All required information must be returned to the region office by April 1, 2026, no exception.

A checklist is provided for you to keep track of your progress. When documents are received at the region office, receipt will be confirmed by email. It is imperative that you provide a current email address and check for messages regularly.

If you wish to apply, please return this application form and transcript to us by APRIL 1, 2026. All required information must be received in the GRR office by the deadline, no exception. Once this date has passed the information will not be accepted. A valid email and phone number must be included with the application. Scholarship applicants are responsible for checking email and phone messages from the region office. There is no exception to the deadlines for documents, including the verification form (due April 30) that is required after scholarship awards notifications are sent.

These items are required in addition to the scholarship application documents:

1. Official transcript must be mailed or emailed to the regional office by your high school or college (if appropriate).
2. Mail or email a copy of your acceptance letter from the school you will attend.

Scholarship applications will be reviewed after April 1, 2026, deadline. You will be notified by mail and email of any award by April 11, 2026. A completed verification form will be due at the region by April 30, 2026. Please note these dates in your calendar.

Thank you for applying for these scholarships. We wish you well as you prepare for a life vocation.

## American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region SHURTLEFF SCHOLARSHIP

### GUIDELINES

1. The applicant must be an American Baptist and hold membership in an American Baptist Church of the Great Rivers Region at the time of application.
2. The applicant shall be a full-time student in a degree program up to and including the master level. Applicant must give evidence of potential for Christian service in the world today, regardless of their vocation. The applicant must be nominated by the pastor or other professional church leader of the church where membership is held. When the church does not have a pastor or other professional church leader at the time the application is submitted, the Church School Superintendent or Youth Advisor should make the nomination.
3. The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from one lay leader of the church where membership is held.
4. The applicant must have a letter of recommendation from the principal, a teacher, or a counselor from the applicant's high school. For those already in college or seminary, a letter from a teacher or counselor at that institution may be submitted to meet this requirement.
5. At the time of application, the applicant's school must submit original high school, college, or seminary transcripts to the Great Rivers Region office. Original transcripts cannot be emailed.
6. The applicant must include a financial statement on the forms that are provided with the application.
7. The applicant must include an estimate of expenses for one year and the intended choice of school.
8. Applications must be received in the region office by April 1, 2026, no exception. Scholarship award checks will be made out to the applicant's school. Award checks will be mailed once the applicant's verification form\* is received at the Region Office.
9. The number and size of scholarships changes from year to year depending on the amount of money available and the number of applicants.

\*Verification Form includes confirmation and enrollment in for full time studies for a degree program by a school accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.

American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region  
HAROLD O. LONG SCHOLARSHIP

GUIDELINES

1. The applicant must be an American Baptist who is holding membership in an American Baptist church of the Great Rivers Region at the time of application.
2. The applicant must give evidence of plans and potential for full time Christian ministry in the world.
3. The applicant must give evidence of strong academic standing and achievement.
4. The applicant must demonstrate financial need, must submit a financial statement on forms that will be provided with the application, and must present a statement of his/her estimated college or seminary expenses.
5. The applicant must be entering (or already be a student at) an American Baptist related college, university, or seminary as a full-time student for a master's or doctoral level degree.
6. Applications must be received in the region office by APRIL 1, 2026. Scholarship checks will be issued to the applicant's school for the fall semester once the verification form of acceptance and enrollment for a degree program by an accredited school has been received at the Region Office.
7. Applicants who are entering students or who are first time applicants will have preference over those already enrolled at a school. Renewal applications will be welcomed each year until graduation, provided that a C average or above GPA is maintained.
8. The number and size of scholarships may change from year to year depending upon the amount of income available for distribution from the Scholarship Fund. However, the minimum amount for a Harold O. Long Scholarship shall be \$1,000.00.
9. Otherwise, qualified applicants who are members of the First Baptist Church of Decatur, Illinois, will be given preference in the granting of awards. Second priority will be given to qualified applicants who are members of American Baptist Churches in Area II; third priority will be given to qualified applicants from other churches from the Great Rivers Region.

GREAT RIVERS REGION SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE – APRIL 1, 2026

Applying  
for:

Shurtleff

Harold O. Long

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Church attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Addy \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this a Great Rivers Region  
Church? \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of this  
church? \_\_\_\_\_

School where you plan to use scholarship  
aid: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic year  
needed: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate mileage to school: \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate for what  
degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected date to receive  
degree: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Official high school/college/seminary transcript requested be sent to GRR  
office: \_\_\_\_\_

Academic standing in \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_  
class: \_\_\_\_\_



AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF THE GREAT RIVERS REGION

GREAT RIVERS REGION SCHOLARSHIP

(Shurtleff/Harold O. Long)

DEADLINE – APRIL 1,2026

FINANCIAL AID FORM

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City State Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Father's Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Mother's Name\*: \_\_\_\_\_ Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

College or Seminary you plan to attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Present Career/Occupational Goals: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Names and ages of siblings\*: \_\_\_\_\_

Will any other member of your family be in college next fall?  
\* \_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please give the name of the family member(s) and college attending:  
\_\_\_\_\_

How much annual financial support will your parents provide to assist you in meeting your college costs? \*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Financial Aid Form Continued

Please list the name of the college/seminary the following expenses apply:

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Annual Expenses

Estimated Expenses

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Tuition

---

Room & Board

---

Fees & Books

---

Transportation

---

Personal

---

Total Expenses (Estimated)

Estimated Resources

---

Other Scholarships or Grants

---

Loans

---

Savings

---

Employment

---

Parent's Financial Support\*

---

Total Resources (Estimated)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

RETURN THIS FORM DIRECTLY TO: GRR Scholarships  
POB 13457  
Springfield IL 62791 OR

nancy@abcgrr.org

American Baptist Churches in the Great Rivers Region Scholarship  
(Shurtleff/Harold O. Long)

APRIL 1, 2026, deadline, no exception

Student's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL APPRAISAL BY PASTOR

We would appreciate your comments on the following points regarding this student. (If church is without a Pastor, the Deacon, Moderator, or Youth Minister may fill out form.)

1. I have known the applicant \_\_\_\_\_ years.  
for \_\_\_\_\_

2. Applicant has been a member of this church  
since: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Is this church affiliated with American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region?

Yes

No

4. Applicant is (check \_\_\_\_\_ Good \_\_\_\_\_ Average \_\_\_\_\_ Poor) participant in the youth activities of  
one \_\_\_\_\_ the

Church? (if in college when applicant is home from school.)

5. What role has the applicant played in youth activities and/or other activities of the church?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. In what ways has applicant demonstrated potential for Christian ministry?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you think the applicant will be a successful student?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. Why do you personally recommend the applicant for scholarship assistance?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments can be added on the back of this form.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Church: \_\_\_\_\_

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American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region Scholarship  
(Shurtleff/Harold O. Long)  
DEADLINE – APRIL 1, 2026

Student's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL APPRAISAL  
LAY PERSON

We would appreciate your comments on the following points regarding this applicant's performance. If your experience with the applicant has not provided you with a basis for answering some questions, mark them "Don't Know."

1. How long have you known the applicant and what is your relationship as a lay person in applicant's church?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What evidence have you noticed of the applicant's sensitivity to the interests and needs of other people?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What motivates this applicant when they show leadership?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. How has the applicant's environment influenced their development?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. What is there about this person that might be indicative of a Christian lifestyle?

\_\_\_\_\_

6. In what ways had applicant demonstrated potential for Christian ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_

7. Additional comments to help the Scholarship Committee understand this applicant better (Optional):

\_\_\_\_\_

Additional comments may be put on the back

Appraisal  
by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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American Baptist Churches of the Great Rivers Region Scholarship  
(Shurtleff/Harold O. Long)  
DEADLINE – APRIL 1, 2025

Student's  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_

CONFIDENTIAL APPRAISAL BY EDUCATOR

We would appreciate your comments on the following points regarding this applicant's performance. If your experience with the applicant has not provided you with a basis for answering some questions, mark them "Don't Know."

1. How long have you known the applicant and what is your relationship with them (teacher, principal, counselor)?

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2. What evidence have you noticed of the applicant's sensitivity to the interests and needs of other people?

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3. What motivates this applicant when they show leadership?

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4. How has the applicant's environment influenced their development?

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5. In what ways has the applicant shown to be a creative person?

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6. Additional comments to help Scholarship Committee to understand this applicant better (Optional):

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Additional Comments may be put on the back

Appraisal  
by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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