

**Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery
Russell Scholarship Fund
Established by Robert H. and Helen B. Russell**

I. MISSION STATEMENT

The Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery Scholarship Fund was established in November 1997, through the generosity of Robert H. and Helen B. Russell of the First Presbyterian Church, Shadyside, Ohio.

Its purpose is to assist with the cost of education beyond high school. Members or persons regularly attending Presbyterian Churches within Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery may apply for scholarships from the fund, within the following guidelines.

The Presbytery receives interest on the principal amount of the funds endowed for this scholarship, as well as gifts by other donors, which perpetuate the fund.

II. ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

The funds for the program shall be kept in a segregated account under the custody and supervision of the Presbytery's Stewardship Committee, which shall determine the investment policy for the fund.

The grant application and approval process shall be under the direction of the Training and Development Committee which shall establish a Student Loan Sub-committee. The Sub-committee shall review all applications and recommend appropriate action to the

Training and Development Committee which shall be responsible for the final decision on each application.

Grant disbursements shall be made by the Presbytery

Treasurer on written directive of the Training and Development Committee. Checks shall be made payable to the recipient, who is responsible for notifying the institution of the award.

The Training and Development Committee shall take appropriate steps to annually publicize the availability of this Grant Program.

III. ELIGIBILITY

The Grant Program shall be open to Presbyterian and other students seeking post-high school and pre-graduate school education regardless of age, so as not to limit the program solely to formal four-year baccalaureate programs, the **Scholarship** Committee shall have the discretion to approve an application based upon the type of educational program the applicant proposes to pursue. Applicants shall not be required to be a member of an Upper Ohio Valley Presbytery church, but must be actively engaged with such a church by way of regular attendance and/or strong involvement in programs of such church.

Applicants shall be required to complete a Grant Application Form as established by the Training and Development Committee. The application must include proof of enrollment and a brief essay written by the applicant describing the educational program to be entered together with the applicant's career goals. The application must also be accompanied by a letter of

recommendation from the session of a church in this Presbytery with which the applicant is associated. Incomplete applications will not be considered for funding.

Grants per applicant per year shall be available based upon the availability of funds, with a maximum award of \$1,000 each.

Students shall be eligible for more than one grant, but must reapply each year.

Grant applications shall be reviewed by the Training and Development Committee which shall make a final decision as to eligibility and amount at its June meeting each year.

Upper Ohio Valley Russell Scholarship Application

Completed Application must be received no later than June 1, 2026 to be eligible for consideration.

shawn@uovpresby.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Preferred phone: _____

Email address: _____

College/University/Trade school attending:

(Please include verification of acceptance or enrollment with your application)

Current GPA (approximately) _____

Presbyterian Church you are connected to, please include city and state. _____

Required Essay : Please provide 3 brief ½ - 1 page typed essays (double spaced with standard font size and margins) that cover each of the following topics: 1) brief personal introduction and current academic/technical and/or career interests, 2) involvement in a UOVP Presbyterian Church and service to the church and/or community, 3) your faith journey and how your church has influenced that.

Optional question (no more than 1 page) : We recognize that college expenses are a hardship for most people. If you have a financial need that the scholarship committee needs to be aware of in our selection process; please include details of your needs. This information will be kept confidential by the selection committee.

Session acknowledgement: (Clerk of Session or Pastor)

I certify that _____ is an active member (according to the official Church rolls) of _____ Presbyterian church.

I certify that _____ is not an active member but is actively involved in the life of _____ Presbyterian Church.

Signature (Clerk of Session or Pastor)

Date _____

(Pastor/Clerk is asked to provide a brief written reference for the applicant)

Applicant Personal verification:

I certify that this application is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Please send completed application no later than June 1, 2026

Email completed application to: shawn@uovpresby.org

Or mail completed application to Upper Ohio Valley
Presbytery 907 National Road Wheeling, WV 26003

Revised May 1, 2025