

**Salem Missionary Baptist Church
305 East 21st Street, Brooklyn, NY 11226
Dr. James A. Thornton, Pastor**

**T. J. BOYD SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT FUND
ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION CRITERIA RULES**

High School Seniors, College and Graduate Students who plan to enroll in or return to institutions of higher learning during the 2023-2024 academic year are encouraged to apply based upon criteria listed below.

Eligibility:

1. Applicants must be members of the Salem Missionary Baptist church for at least one year at the time of application.
2. Proof of acceptance to a bonafide and accredited college/university (original letter of acceptance) must be submitted with application.
3. If already, in college applicant must submit proof of passing in all grades for the entire year. All applicants must take a minimum of 12 hours per semester. Graduate students must take a minimum of two (2) courses each semester.
4. A typed essay, three to five pages in length and double spaced (12 pt. font) must be submitted with the application.
5. **Application Deadline: Sunday, July 23, 2023**
6. **Scholarships will be awarded on Sunday, August 6, 2023**
"Scholarship Awards Day.
7. Recipients must be present to receive the scholarship award, unless proof is submitted to the church office that the applicant must be attending college on that date.
8. **Applicant must submit all required documentation to scholarshipsmbc@gmail.com**
Completed application, typed essay, and official high school, college, or graduate school transcript. Include forms verifying participation in Church ministries, extracurricular activities in high school, college and/or community organizations.

Note: There will be no exception to eligibility rules #5 #6 #7 and #8.

THE FOLLOWING POINT SYSTEM WILL BE USED IN THE EVALUATION OF EACH APPLICATION:

1. Scholastic ability: Submit an official high school, college, or graduate school transcript for the 2022-2023 academic year with your application. **25%**

2. Participation in church activities: All applicants must submit verification form(s) signed by ministry leaders who are familiar with your participation. 25%

College and Graduate students must submit proof that they have attended Worship service and/or participated in their home church ministries at least four times during the 2022 -2023 academic school year.

High School Seniors must submit proof of participation in church ministries during the 2022 -2023 academic school year.

3. Involvement in high school, college and/or community organizations: You may submit verification forms or letters detailing your involvement in high school, college and/or community service activities. **25%**

4. Typed Essay: Three to five pages in length and double spaced (12 pt. font).

Essay must demonstrate clarity, coherence, proper grammar, and enough details to develop the concept. **25%**

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS:

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS: Please identify which essay question you have selected on the top page (i.e., Question - #1, #2, #3, #4).

1. Who or what has been your motivation to attend college? What are your expectations of the college experience, and how prepared are you for the hard work and discipline that being a college student will demand?
2. If you had to choose one thing that is of major concern to you (i.e., global food crisis; crime in the city/local; racism). What would it be? Explain. If you had to choose one thing that is of major concern to you (i.e., global food crisis; crime in the city/local; racism). What would it be? Explain.
3. Share with us about an instance when discipline and persistence were the key assets that contributed to your success. Please include in your discussion how employing initiative and determination were invaluable in achieving your goal(s).

4. "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" – Nelson Mandela. Describe a change you would like to make in the world. Tell how you plan to make the change and what obstacles you might encounter on the way.

COLLEGE AND GRADUATE STUDENTS:

CHOOSE FROM THE FOLLOWING ESSAY TOPICS: Please identify which essay question you have selected on the top page (i.e., Question - #1, #2, #3, #4).

1

Gov. Ron DeSantis of Florida recently signed several bills into law which restrict a woman's rights to reproductive healthcare, ban classroom instruction on selective issues of race, history, gender identity and sexual orientation. Similarly, in school districts across the nation, there are growing lists of books and works of literature which have been banned from local libraries; the poem read at the inauguration of Pres. Joe Biden by Amanda Gorman our National Youth Poet Laureate has been banned in several schools.

THE QUESTION:

If we are a nation of constitutionally protected free speech and expression, should what we read be legislated; should our thoughts, written or spoken be stifled; should the state have the power to determine one's right to healthcare based on who one loves? Please share your ideas in a thoughtfully crafted essay which addresses the slow erosion and chipping away of long guaranteed civil and human rights

#2

America's indigenous tribes and peoples were 'discovered' by the first immigrants - Europeans fleeing the heavy hand of kingly rule. In nearly 250 years, this 'new' land, built on the backs of the first immigrants - enslaved Africans, and poor Chinese - and later, by a steady stream of millions of immigrants the world over, bringing their technical and

scientific skills and their yearning for freedom – religious, social, and economic – has become the world's largest economy.

Today, immigration reform is a hot button political issue. Busloads of asylum-seeking immigrants from Latin America and the Caribbean are literally being dumped on the streets of cities in New York and California, by the Republican governors of Florida and Texas. In New

York City, this has caused a tremendous strain on our resources, its impact being felt most immediately in our already strained homeless services. Conflicting perspectives by being voiced by leaders of our civic and government agencies have brought the issue of how we respond to needs of the new immigrants to the public square.

THE QUESTION:

How do we confront and address the alarming increase of immigrants to our city? Should residents consider Mayor Adams' plan to pay New Yorkers to shelter immigrants in their homes? Should houses of worship open their doors to the new immigrants? Should the needs of homeless New Yorkers be measured against those of the new immigrants? What are your thoughts?

#3

Artificial Intelligence (AI) - the development and use of computer systems that can perform tasks requiring human intelligence, is a phenomenon which is revolutionizing every aspect of our work and social life, and it has taken center stage in discussions of the future of labor, scientific innovations and technological advancements, the prevention of cybercrime, identity theft, foreign and domestic political disinformation, and acts of violence to name a few.

THE QUESTION:

As the field of AI continues to expand, can you identify any areas of industry or social life where the application of AI is helping us today? Do you foresee any danger in placing too much reliance and confidence in AI? Do you believe there will come a time when AI technology will be more intelligent than humans?

#4

We often say that having a knowledge of self, of one's history and culture, informs the choices and decisions we make over the course of our lives.

THE QUESTION:

With some introspection, would you share with the Committee, the three things that are of most importance to you, and why; how did you make that determination, and will these three things hold the same place of importance in 10 years? Explain.

