

The Reverend James I. Borden Memorial Scholarship Application

The Reverend James I. Borden Memorial Scholarship was established to commemorate and celebrate the life of Jim Borden, beloved former pastor of the Church of the Covenant United Methodist in Averill Park, whose life ended tragically in 1984. Mr. Borden promoted ecumenicalism and was an active member of community music and drama groups. In an effort to honor and perpetuate Mr. Borden's memory, financial assistance will be awarded to deserving seniors with the intent of helping them reach their potential as they pursue higher educational goals.

General Directions and Conditions Regarding this Scholarship:

Applicants need to fully complete *all* the stated requirements/directions of the application process included in this packet. Determination of scholarship recipients(s) will be based on information provided within the entire contents of the completed application. Only fully completed, legible applications submitted by the stated deadline will be considered. The *essay portion must be typewritten*, which is the preferred manner in completing all other aspects of the application, but is not essential.

Conditions of this scholarship may change, but currently it is anticipated that one (1) will be awarded annually in the amount of \$1,000.00.

Certification: In submitting this application, you and your parents/guardians certify that the information is complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge. Falsification of information will result in termination of any possible scholarship being granted.

Applicant's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Applicant Data:

Name: _____
(last) (first) (middle initial)

Permanent Address: _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Date of Birth: _____
(month, day, year) (age) (tele#) (email address)

Permanent mailing address if different from above:

Parent/guardian mailing address if different from above:

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Eligibility:

(All applicants must meet the following criteria)

Graduate high school, or the equivalent, in current year and have met NYS HS graduating requirements.

Have been accepted by college, trade school, or other accredited higher education program(s).

Reside in the Averill Park Central School District and/or actively affiliated with the Church of the Covenant UM.

Application Process and Form:

School generated transcript of HS courses must be included; however, no specified GPA is required.

Two (2) letters of recommendation/reference; one from a community member and one connected with your education, i.e., teacher, etc. must be included. (Letters generated by relatives of applicant will not be acceptable.)

State your plans as they relate to your educational and career objectives and future goals **including list of colleges/other institutions of higher learning to which you have applied.** State your intended major, minor, if applicable. (*Proof* of specific acceptance and commitment to pursue higher education is required prior to recipient actually receiving the scholarship.)

Applications need to be received by the Borden Memorial Scholarship Committee, Church of the Covenant UM, Box 306, Averill Park, NY 12018 no later than **April 15, 2024.**

The recipient of this scholarship will be notified at the time senior awards are announced at the applicant's high school.

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List and Specify Interests and Participation in School and Community Activities:

Please complete the following according to the degree each pertains to you *throughout your high school career*, including the extent of your participation. (It is *not* a requirement that you address each of the categories below – only those with which you had interaction.)

Extra-curricular Activities, other than sports:

Sports; Interest and Involvement:

Volunteer Community Service:

Employment and/or Internships:

Awards and Honors:

Other:

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An **original essay** must be submitted with the application. It must be specifically for this scholarship application; generic essays such as those written for college applications, will be unacceptable.

Your essay must be typewritten; handwritten ones will not be accepted.

Include in your essay details and/or specific examples which demonstrate how you, the applicant, embody attributes and/or interests similar to those of James Borden. (Refer to the accompanying biography of him.) Describe some ways you already aspire, and/or might aspire, to help or encourage family members, and/or your school and larger community to embrace some of the personal qualities, interests, attributes, and/or ambitions exhibited by Mr. Borden. Be specific. Again, refer to Mr. Borden's biography.

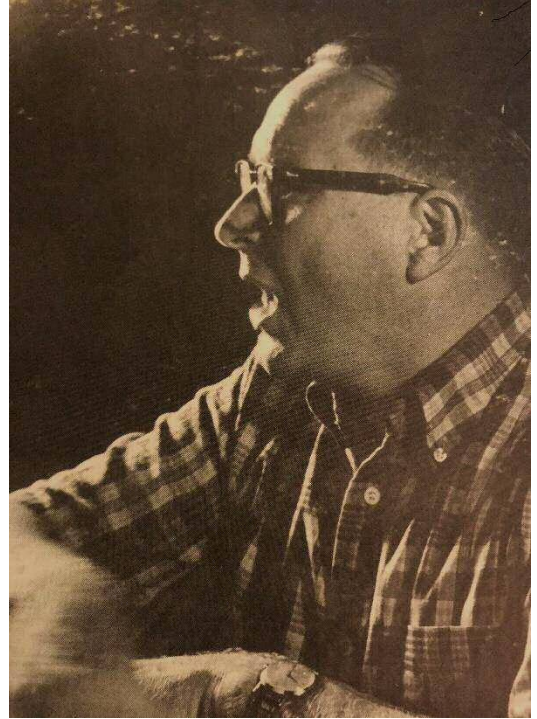
Who was The Reverend James I. Borden?

This award is given in memory of Rev. James Ivan Borden who was minister of the Church of the Covenant United Methodist in Averill Park from 1961 to 1972. During those 11 years, the church was blessed with a pastor who was an

extraordinary person and had so many wonderful talents. Those whose lives he touched will always remember how much he loved people.

He was gentle and kind, always reaching out to people in need. However, he was very serious about his ministry and always worked for the good of people all over the world. He tried to live, preach, and teach peace and non-violence. Someone was quoted as saying, "Church and doing good deeds were the road he took in life."

During his life, Jim Borden grew up on a farm in Easton, NY. He graduated valedictorian of his high school class, studied music in college, then earned a degree in sociology. He went on to graduate from Yale Divinity School with a Masters of Divinity and spent another year at Union College's School of Sacred Music. He loved music from the time he was a teen - singing in, accompanying, and directing choral groups. While serving the church in Averill Park, he pursued his interest in folk music, playing guitar and other instruments. Jim's wife Jane, and their two sons, Erich, and Scott, joined him and



produced a record album together of their folk music.

Jim Borden loved serving the youth of the church. He mentored youth through Sunday School, confirmation classes, family events and “MYF” (Methodist Youth Fellowship) to name a few. He was strict and serious during time spent with youth, but always made it a fun and valuable experience.

He encouraged the development of positive Christian values and understanding how to live life in a way that honored God. He told stories, sometimes with his guitar and singing, sometimes with role playing and drama groups.

After serving many churches in New York State and Vermont, Rev. Borden became pastor at the Saratoga Springs United Methodist Church in 1984. During his time there, he was able to spend time at the old family farm in Easton. It was reported that he often used the property as a retreat and was known to counsel troubled individuals there.

On October 1, 1984, Rev. Jim Borden was tragically killed while at the farm alone. A young man was arrested and it was determined that he was psychotic at the time of the murder. Rev. Borden was 60 years old at the time.

He has been remembered by many as always reaching out to help others; “A model individual for the community;” a talented musician, a man of strong faith, and a wonderful, well -respected pastor.