

**Approved by GBHEM Executive Committee and Board of Directors March 20, 2009**

**Background: Per 2008 General Conference  
Legislative Action**

*“Therefore, be it resolved that the 2008 General Conference instructs the General Board of Higher Education and Ministry to complete a review as soon as possible of all policies and legal restrictions governing its student loans and scholarships and eliminate any requirements for U.S. citizenship or legal resident status for applicants.”*

*April, 2008*

**Policy and Procedural Recommendations Approved by Loans and Scholarships  
Committee January 23, 2009**

**A. GBHEM Scholarship Programs**

- 1) U.S. citizenship or permanent resident status is not required to apply for a GBHEM scholarship.
- 2) International students from one of the United Methodist Church Central Conferences must be a member of The United Methodist Church for a minimum of three years and be attending a United Methodist related school within the United States. For scholarship consideration, international applicants are required to submit a reference letter with the scholarship application from the UM College President or designee in the UM School in which they are to be enrolled.
- 3) International students from an autonomous Methodist Church (or non UMC Central Conference) must have been a member of The United Methodist Church within the United States for at least 3 years and be attending a United Methodist related school within the United States. For scholarship consideration, international applicants are required to submit a reference letter with the scholarship application from the President of the UM School or designee in which they are enrolled.

**B. GBHEM Loans Program**

- 1) International students must adhere to all loan policies previously approved by the GBHEM Board of Directors which requires a cosigner, a promissory note signed by the borrower and cosigner with appropriate notary signatures, and a review of the credit history of the borrower and cosigner.
- 2) In addition, an International borrower must be a member of a church in the Central Conference of the United Methodist Church for at least three years or; if the borrower is a member of an autonomous Methodist Church, must be a member of a United Methodist Church in the United States for at least three years to qualify.
- 3) International borrowers must secure a cosigner who is a citizen of the United States or has legal permanent resident status; and the applicant must be attending a United Methodist-related college, university, or seminary and submit a reference letter from the UM College President or designee in the college they are to be enrolled.

3/20/09