

# Seminary and Bible College Student Application For the Rosa Sailes Legacy Scholars' Award Academic Year 2026-2027

**Application Due Date: May 31, 2026**

The Rosa Sailes Legacy Scholars' Awards are monetary gifts presented to African American students enrolled in accredited seminaries or Bible colleges. These adults are not required to be active in or pursue pastoral leadership. They must, however, give proof of being either in full-time, part-time, or bi-vocational ministry, or service as lay members or leaders in their local assemblies. Applicants must indicate how they have contributed their skill, talent, and time to the African American church and community; how their theological pursuits are enhancing or shaping their concept of what it means to serve God, the Church, and the Black community; and their plan for continuing their commitment to the Church and community after their theological studies.

The Rosa Sailes Legacy Scholars' Award from The Ezra Project provides one-time monetary awards to African American adults who are pursuing a post-secondary education through an accredited Seminary or Bible College. Applicants may either be residents of the Chicago area attending an accredited Seminary or Bible college in the United States or residents of other states who are full-time, in-person attendees at a Chicago area institution. Applicants must have completed at least one year of study and be **currently and actively pursuing degrees** in accredited theological institutions.

Applicants must be active members in a local church and must demonstrate involvement in both Christian ministry and community service as well as academic effort. Most importantly, applicants must explain how their academic pursuit in a theological institution will prepare them for future ministry that contributes to the uplift of the African American church and community.

## **REQUIREMENTS:**

To be considered for the **Rosa M. Sailes Legacy Scholars' Award** applicants must:

- Be actively pursuing a degree in an accredited seminary for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Provide a statement of faith as well as an essay as indicated on the application.
- Show proof of enrollment and class schedule for the accredited institution.
- Provide an official copy of a transcript from the current institution indicating a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Be an active member in a local church.

## **HOW TO APPLY:**

To apply for the Rosa M. Sailes Legacy Scholars' Award, complete and email the application to **ezrafactor@gmail.com** along with the following items:

\_\_\_ **Statement of Faith:** Include a 50 - 100-word statement of faith including your baptism and church and/or denomination affiliation(s).

\_\_\_ **Essay:** Include an essay of 750-1000 words that explains (a) your current involvement in your local church including any ministries or auxiliaries with which you participate, (b) how you envision your seminary or Bible college work will prepare you for your next phase of ministry and uplift of the African American church and community.





**SUBMIT SUPPORTING ATTACHMENTS**

- Official Transcripts  Statement of Faith  4 Letters of Recommendations:
- Official Class:  Schedule:
- Pastor
  - Ministry Colleague
  - Current Faculty Member
  - Other choice
- Essay:

**CHURCH INFORMATION**

Name of Church: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Street City State Zip

Church Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Church Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANT SIGNATURE**

I certify that the information provided on this form is accurate.

Signature of applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

Received by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Reviewed by: \_\_\_\_\_

Accepted  Declined  Incomplete

**MAIL COMPLETED APPLICATION PACKAGE TO: THE EZRA PROJECT, P. O. BOX 438825, CHICAGO, IL 60643. OR EMAIL YOUR APPLICATION TO: EZRAFACTOR@GMAIL.COM**