

2024-25 COGIC Charities Scholarship Essay Questions

There are two questions. Please write a comprehensive essay on each question. Each question is worth 25 points, for a total of 50 points. Type your essays using 12-point font and upload them on the application. You will not be judged on your opinion, but on how you structure your essay. Please ensure that your essay is in your own words and that you use the sub-questions to guide the essay development. Using Artificial Intelligence (AI) to answer these questions will automatically disqualify you from receiving a scholarship.

Essay #1

In the introduction to Jonathan Eig's new biography of Martin Luther King, Jr., it says, "As Eig follows King from the classroom to the pulpit to the street of Birmingham, Selma and Memphis, he dramatically captures the journey of a man who recast American race relations and became our only modern-day 'Founding Father' - as well as a nation's most mourned martyr."

1. In what way can Martin Luther King, Jr. be considered a "Founding Father" of the United States of America?
2. On April 3, 1968, the day before his assassination, Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I have been to the mountain top" speech at Mason Temple, the headquarters of the Church of God in Christ. The speech was given before supporters of a sanitation workers' rally. What does it say about the social justice legacy of the Church of God in Christ?
3. Martin Luther King, Jr. was 39 years old when he was assassinated outside the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, Tennessee. That means that all the work that he did as a human rights and economic rights activist was done before he turned 40 years old. What does his life say about young people's ability to bring about social change, and do you think that young Christians are called to agitate for social justice.
4. In June of 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the use of race in college admissions. The opponents for affirmative action argued that using race as a factor in college admission violated Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution. Both the Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and the Fourteenth Amendment were originally passed by Congress to address racial discrimination against African American but are now being used to undermine race conscious admissions. What arguments do you think Dr. King would have made to the courts concerning affirmative action in college admissions.

Essay #2

The Church of God in Christ's first Senior Bishop, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, was born in 1864 in Shelby County, Tennessee, near the end of the American Civil War. His parents, Jerry and Eliza Mason, were both former slaves. He began life working with his family as sharecroppers. He taught himself how to read and write and did not receive formal education until he was an adult. Because of his leadership, hard work, devotion to God and to the people that he served, he is the father of one of the largest Christian denominations in the world. Our present Presiding Bishop, Bishop J. Drew Sheard, was born on 1959 in Detroit, Michigan. After completing high school, Bishop Sheard attended Wayne State University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in education and a Master of Education degree in mathematics. For some years, he worked as a secondary school math teacher in the Detroit Public School District.

1. What characteristics do you think these leaders share that have contributed to their successful leadership of the Church of God in Christ?
2. What characteristics do you think these leaders possess that differ from each other and have been important to their success?