



Church Women United of Brooklyn
invites you to apply for the:

OPHELIA PERRY Scholarship

DEADLINE:
MAY 20, 2025

About Us

Apply today for the Ophelia Perry Scholarship, honoring Mrs. Perry's legacy by supporting deserving individuals in their pursuit of higher education. Receive financial assistance of \$1000 towards your educational goals, especially if you demonstrate a commitment to community service and leadership.



Education



Faith Based



Community



Visit Our Website
www.cwubrooklyn.org

APPLY NOW

Church Women United's mission is to be a racially, culturally, and theologically inclusive Christian women's movement celebrating unity in diversity and working for a world of peace and justice, specifically for women and children.



Ophelia Perry Scholarship Application



June 18th, 1935- April 9th, 2020

*In 2015, CWU, Brooklyn Chapter, former President Ophelia Perry at one of the 7 Last Words of Christ, which she convened and instituted as a **Signature** event for Church Women United. This event is annually hosted at Friendship Baptist Church located at 92 Herkimer St, Brooklyn, NY 11216. Rev. Dr. Craig B. Gaddy Sr. is the Pastor.*

Sheila Davis, CWUB President
*Charter Scholarship Committee

Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah,
Founding Scholarship Chair

Members

Jacqueline Kalokoh*

Zenner Bostic*

Dr. Aprele Elliott*

Sandra Underwood*

Leslie Grandberry

Lela Fernandez-Butler

Marcia Melendez

Sharman Blake

Julie Glemund

The mission of Church Women United is to use the resources God has entrusted to us responsibly and creatively – our intelligence, our time, our energy, our money—as we carry out the mission of Christ through Church Women United.

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Excerpts from A TRIBUTE TO MRS. OPHELIA YOUNG PERRY by HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS of New York as presented in the House of Representatives, Thursday, March 19, 2009

Born on June 18th, 1935, Mrs. Ophelia Young Perry was a native of Buckingham County, Virginia. Her last resident was with her husband, Mr. William Frank Perry, Jr. in a nursing home in Brooklyn, New York. The Perrys have one son, Rev. William Franc Perry, III, Esq., Supreme Court Judge located in the State of New York. In January of 2019, Judge Perry, on behalf of his family, reviewed and approved the Ophelia Perry Scholarship application. He also gave his blessings and thanks to Church Women United on behalf of his parents. Mrs. Perry was an active member of the Berean Missionary Baptist Church in Brooklyn for nearly 70 years. Mrs. Perry was involved in community and civic affairs. She was the former President of Church Women United, Brooklyn Chapter.

Church Women United (CWU) is the world's largest ecumenical movement of Christian women. Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the movement's membership increased to include over 700 Christian women. It is the largest unit of CWU in the country. In response to shrewd spiritual insight, Mrs. Perry conceived the idea for an observance centered around the "Seven Last Words of Christ." For the past 35 years, the ecumenical worship begins at 7:00 A.M. on Good Friday and the attendance continues to grow. These services have been held in various community churches and have continued to draw widespread worshipers. Participants travel throughout the metropolitan area and from many other parts of the United States to attend this annual worship celebration. Additionally, she organized the initial Annual Awards Luncheon for the organization and continues to provide her expertise in this worthy cause today. Under Mrs. Perry's leadership, the Brooklyn Unit of CWU sponsors many other activities to raise funds to make contributions to others in need, including: Holiday sharing, contributions to World Church Services, Rose F. Kennedy Residence for Girls, Project Teen Aid, Herbert G. Birch Services, Antigua/Barbuda Cultural Society, Inc, Fund for Burned Churches, Bedford-Stuyvesant Volunteer Ambulatory Service, Hurricane Floyd Victims in North Carolina and they provide aid to orphaned foreign sisters living in the U.S – just to name a few.

Mrs. Perry was affiliated with Berean Missionary Baptist Church, The Links Incorporated, The Women's Civic League of Abyssinian Baptist Church, the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, the Eastern Baptist Association, Spouses of the Black Congressional Caucus and is a member of the National Council of Negro Women of Brooklyn. Mrs. Perry has won numerous awards for her work including: Women of the Year Award--The National Conference of Christians and Jews, Salute to Brooklyn Women Leadership Humanitarian Award--The Brooklyn League, The Woman's History Month Honoree--Brooklyn District Attorney, The Caribbean American Award--Chamber of Commerce, Outstanding Service Award--The Council of Churches, City of N.Y., Woman of Influence Award--Brooklyn YWCA, Thomas R. Fortune Community Service Award--Unity Democratic Club, Valiant Woman Award--Church Women United, Sandy F. Ray Award--Religious and Humanitarian Award--Cornerstone Baptist Church, Religious Award--People's Institutional AME Church, Religious Award--New Life Tabernacle Life Changing Ministries, Congressional Record United States House of Representatives, Woman of the Year for Community Service--Bridge Street AME Church, "Brooklyn Women of Essence" Con Edison and, finally, National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women, Global Ministries Humanitarian Award and International Affairs Division. After working for 18 years for Borough President Howard Golden as Liaison to the Christian Community, Borough President, Marty Markowitz appointed her as Good Will Ambassador for Brooklyn Churches.

In September 2018, at their opening meeting, Church Women United, Brooklyn Chapter, under the leadership of President Sheila Davis, voted unanimously to establish a scholarship in Mrs. Ophelia Perry honor. This proposal was conceived and presented by Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah, Founder and President of Neighborhood Technical Assistance Clinic (NTAC) and also a member of CWU, Brooklyn Chapter. Brooklyn Borough President, Eric Adams provided support to NTAC to assist in the development of the Scholarship Fund in the name of Ophelia Perry. Rev. Dr. Durrah agreed to serve as its Charter Scholarship Committee Chairperson. Members who signed up to serve on this charter committee include: Jacqueline Kalokoh, Gianni Daniels- Staley, Victoria Graves-Cade, Rev S. Faith Holman, Zenner Bostic, Sandra Underwood, and Dr. Aperele Elliott.

Mrs. Ophelia Perry transitioned from this life to her heavenly home on Thursday, April 9th, 2020 – the evening before CWU's annual Good Friday service that Mrs. Perry founded 37 years ago. The first Good Friday was held in 1983.



Tel: 917-971-6311

Office: PO Box 160242, Brooklyn, New York

Mailing Address:

Church Women United, Brooklyn Chapter Scholarship Committee

Scholarship Committee Chairperson, Rev. Dr. Valerie Oliver Durrah

In c/o 544 MacDonough Street, Brooklyn, NY 11233 | **Email:** Dr.Durrah@neighborhoodclinic.org

SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A CANDIDATE MUST BE:

- ◆ Citizen of the United States of America or a legal permanent resident
- ◆ Brooklyn Resident
- ◆ Female or Male - 16 to 25 years of age
- ◆ New York City High School or G.E.D. graduate at time of application
- ◆ Successful high school completion while overcoming obstacles
- ◆ Demonstration of Community Service during high school career, both currently and beyond
- ◆ Acceptance Letter from College Applicant for current year
- ◆ New York City resident with proof of residency if you intend to attend college in New York City
- ◆ Affiliated with Faith-based Institution
- ◆ Completion of a 500 – 700 word essay

SELECTION PROCESS:

Winner will be selected on the basis of **ALL** of the following:

- ◆ College or High School transcript, including verification of a cumulative GPA, not less than 80%, SAT/ACT scores of at least 1000 or above, a poem, a video (if video, identify location of it).
- ◆ Two letters of recommendation attesting to the applicant's participation in school, community or civic activities
- ◆ Approval of Committee

ESSAY: Topics –

- ◆ **How my family's cultural background strengthens me and adds to the melting pot and rich culture of New York.**
- ◆ **How community service has made a difference in your life.**
- ◆ **Identify a Church Woman who is making a difference in the life of her church or community.**

(500-700 words – Typewritten)

To apply, please supply the following information:

APPLICANT INFORMATION * PLEASE PRINT*									
Last Name				First	MI	.	SS#		
Present Address							Apartment Unit #		
City				State		ZIP			
Permanent Address							Apartment Unit #		
City				State		ZIP			
Present Telephone	()			Secondary Telephone	()				
Gender	Male <input type="checkbox"/>	Female <input type="checkbox"/>	Email:						
EDUCATION (HIGH SCHOOL AND COLLEGE)									
Name of School and Location				Dates of Attendance		Degrees received or to be received			
				From	To	Degree	Major Field	Date	
SCHOLASTIC, COMMUNITY, & FAITH-BASED ACHIEVEMENT									
HIGH SCHOOL: cumulative average_____									
IF APPLICABLE, COLLEGE: cumulative average_____									
Transcript from School Attending:_____									
Scholastic Honors (Honors Societies, Prizes, Scholarships, etc.):									
Describe Community Involvement Activities									
Describe Faith-based Involvement Activities									

PLEASE EMAIL YOUR COMPLETED APPLICATION AND ESSAY TO:
 REV. DR. VALERIE OLIVER DURRAH @ VOLIVERE@AOL.COM
 DEADLINE: Please contact chair or committee members for deadline.