

Education and Service Scholarship Program
Bethel College Mennonite Church
North Newton, Kansas 67117
August 3, 2023

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I. Purpose

It is the intent of the Bethel College Mennonite Church to support its members and particularly its young adults in both service programs and in higher education, each of which enriches their lives and contributes to the mission of the church and the welfare of society.

II. The Service Component

Various Mennonite agencies (e.g. Mennonite Church USA, the Mennonite Central Committee, or MEDA) provide opportunities for persons to contribute a significant portion of their lives in many programs of voluntary service. Sometimes this occurs in a year between high school and college or it can occur during or after college graduation. We want to support our young adults for such service (either a calendar year or equal to the academic year) in proportion to what we support for undergraduate education for Bethel College. Scholarships are not available for shorter term service, youth group service weeks, or older adult service (e.g. SOOP).

Career or extended years mission and service commitments will be considered and administered by the BCMC Witness Commission through the regular church budget or specially administered support groups.

Financial support for service programs will be drawn from the BCMC Missions and Service Endowment Fund and will be administered by the Education and Service Scholarship Committee using similar guidelines to those for education as appropriate to the individual case.

III. The Educational Component

As a college-related church it is the intent of the Bethel College Mennonite Church to support financially, spiritually, and intellectually the pursuit of undergraduate and seminary study at Mennonite related institutions, with the special interest in our case with Bethel College of North Newton, Kansas.

We believe that our Mennonite educational institutions offer significant benefits among which are the following:

- An education grounded in Anabaptist/Mennonite values of service, peace, and justice.
- A caring community of students, faculty, and administration.
- A commitment to both intellectual and faith-oriented growth and leadership.

Financial support for educational scholarships will be drawn from the annual budget and from fund-raising activities.

43IV. Guidelines for Eligibility

- 44 1. Undergraduate scholarships will be awarded to members of Bethel College Mennonite
45 Church. For this purpose a member is defined as a person or a family member in which at
46 least one parent is a regular member of BCMC.
- 47 2. Scholarships may also be granted at the discretion of the administering committee for
48 young adults who while in high school displayed a high level of involvement with this
49 church and youth group and who express a desire to attend a Mennonite college.
- 50 3. Students must be accepted by and enrolled in an accredited college or university of an
51 Anabaptist denomination or historic peace church or those related to Mennonite Central
52 Committee as listed in an appendix.
- 53 4. Scholarships will be awarded only to students attending fall or spring semester full time as
54 defined by the educational institution. Summer school is not included.
- 55 5. A person may receive no more than four (4) annual scholarships, or eight (8) semesters for
56 undergraduate programs, a scholarship for one (1) year of service, and no more than a total
57 of seven (7) annual scholarships for accumulated service, undergraduate and seminary
58 programs.
- 59 6. Scholarships may be used toward tuition, room and board or other education expenses up to
60 the cost of attendance.
- 61 7. If a student receives other academic or talent based scholarships and/or grants from federal,
62 state, institutional or other outside scholarship sources which when combined with the
63 BCMC scholarship would exceed cost of attendance, then the BCMC scholarship will be
64 reduced or eliminated. It is further understood that colleges and universities that match
65 church scholarships may also limit their match so as not to exceed cost of attendance.
- 66 8. Scholarships are not available to students already receiving a scholarship from another
67 congregation.
- 68 9. Applications for BCMC scholarships must be submitted annually. Application forms are
69 available on the church web site or at the church office, and must be completed, signed, and
70 returned by the deadline announced via the church bulletin.

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72 V. Additional scholarship components.

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74 **International Student scholarship.** As a part of the missional commitment of our congregation
75 it has been our policy to provide one annual educational scholarship for tuition for an
76 international student enrolled full-time at Bethel College. This has been in an amount equal to
77 that provided for our own members. This international student is not required to be a member of
78 BCMC to receive this scholarship. The Education and Service Scholarship Committee in
79 consultation with the Admissions Office of Bethel College will select the international student to
80 receive this scholarship.

81

82 **Seminary scholarships.** BCMC chooses to support persons who are challenged or called to
83 vocations in service of the church, especially pastoral ministry. Therefore we also wish to
84 support our members (defined above) who enroll in Mennonite seminary programs (see
85 appendix) as full time students. The guidelines for eligibility stated above will similarly guide
86 scholarships for seminary students, and they will receive amounts equal to those enrolled in
87 undergraduate programs other than Bethel College.

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89VI. Financial Aid/Funding

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91 **For those attending Bethel College.** Because of the special and unique relationship of BCMC
92 to Bethel College, it is our goal to provide an annual scholarship of \$2,000 (\$1,000 per semester)
93 for each student of BCMC enrolled at Bethel College, assuming the guidelines and limitations
94 stated above. If resources are not available for the full educational component to achieve this
95 amount, we will seek to come as close to the stated amount as possible.

96

97 **For those attending other Mennonite Colleges, Universities, and Seminaries.** It is our goal to
98 provide an annual scholarship of \$1,000 (\$500 per semester) for each student of BCMC enrolled
99 in a Mennonite college, university, or seminary other than Bethel College (see appendices),
100 assuming the guidelines and limitations stated above. If resources are not available for the full
101 educational component to achieve this amount, we will seek to come as close to the stated
102 amount as possible.

103

104 **Payments.** All payments of church scholarships will be made via the Church Treasurer of
105 BCMC and made directly to the account of the student within the educational institution
106 identified. In no case will payment be made directly to the student.

107

108 **Funding.** Following recent practice an amount equal to \$1,000 per anticipated student will be
109 placed in the requested annual budget of the Faith Formation Commission.

110

111 In addition, the Education and Service Scholarship Committee will conduct fund raising efforts
112 to achieve the higher goal of support for our students. These efforts may include such things as
113 direct mail solicitation of past recipients and others known to have interest and care for this
114 program, events at which commitments of support are invited, and any other means created by
115 the committee. These funds shall be deposited into the Education Scholarship Fund.

116

117 In future years the Education and Service Scholarship Committee may monitor the annual cost of
118 living adjustment (COLA) and changes in college tuition in order to make changes and
119 adjustments appropriate for the scholarships given.

120

121 As stated above, funding for the service component will be through the Mission and Service
122 Endowment Fund. Again appropriate applications will be available and administered by the
123 Education and Service Scholarship Committee.

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126VII. Administration

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128 Administration of these scholarship efforts is sufficiently complex and focused that the
129 responsibility needs to be a designated group, the Education and Service Scholarship Committee,
130 accountable to the Church Board.

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132 Since much of the work has to do with Bethel College, the present Bethel College Relations
133 Committee could sponsor some events as fund raisers in cooperation with the Education and
134 Service Scholarship Committee.

135

136 III. Revision

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138 This scholarship program and policy is subject to regular review by the Education and Service
139 Scholarship Committee and the Church Board. Changes can be made by the agreement of these
140 two bodies.

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142 Original scholarship program dates back to the late 1960's and early 1970's

143 First policy--adopted by Congregation 1-15-1984

144 Revision: 1-8-1998 by Church Board

145 Revision: March 2001; approved by Church Board: May 2001

146 Revision: February 6, 2003 by Church Board

147 Revision: December 2010 - Proposed by Faith Formation Commission

148 Revision: February 23, 2011 – revisions by Handbook and Policy Committee

149 Approved by Church Board - March 3, 2011

150 Revision: November 2011

151 Proposed by Faith Formation Commission; reviewed Dec 2011 by Handbook and Policy Committee

152 Approved by Church Board – January 5, 2012 72

153 Present revision recommended by a special committee appointed by the Church Board, Spring 2013

154 Approved by the Church Board – November 7, 2013

155 Amended by Church Board – May 4, 2017

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Appendices

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159 IX. Perspectives and Rationales:

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161 The following are issues and concerns that have been taken into consideration by the present committee.

162 Some of these are issues which we are seeking to solve in the above recommended policies. Others are

163 perspectives that we have identified and that form the basis of our recommendations.

164

165 • We believe there is merit in thinking about our scholarship program wholistically; that is,
166 combining into one administrative unit of the church two quite distinct programs. We want to
167 think in terms of one function - scholarships, with two distinct and separate programs - for service
168 and for education.

169

170 • We have a double purpose in these scholarship endeavors. Clearly we want to support our young
171 adults in the challenging environment demanding their commitments of time and energy.
172 Financial support is critical in enabling them to engage in activities of growth and development.
173 But we also have a churchly desire to support our institutions. In particular, we have a special
174 interest in Bethel College and especially its needs for student enrollment. In significant measure,
175 this scholarship program is part of our continuing commitment to Bethel College. Two important
176 goals can be met through one program!

177

178 • The college scholarship program has a long history in BCMC, beginning somewhere about 1970.
179 One of our continuing concerns is sustainability – how do we structure this financially in a way
180 that promises to maintain this into the future? In recent years it has been a part of the annual
181 church budget and we commend the church for that commitment. What that has done is to give a
182 good foundation; what it lacks are motivational factors for giving that could attract additional
183 funds from persons in the congregation who have a high interest in Bethel College and its

184 students. We also believe that we might challenge those who are past recipients of such
185 scholarship funds to contribute to a new generation of students. We also need ways to increase
186 the amount of the scholarships with the continuing rise of tuition.
187

- 188 • For approximately ten years BCMC has had available the Mission and Service Endowment Fund,
189 thanks to the generosity of an original donor. To our knowledge it has been used only once in that
190 period. The downturn of all investments in 2008 was also not helpful to maintaining a level of
191 support to make it functional. However we believe that it should now be activated and used as it
192 was intended and that its purpose is well served by our congregation's desire to support our youth
193 in service programs of the church. It needs promotion and administration by a committee within
194 the church that has its purpose as central to what it does. Therefore we believe that the
195 scholarship committee (however formed) should be given administrative responsibility for the
196 Mission and Service Endowment Fund.
197
- 198 • Our focus is on young adults. We recognize that there are many good and legitimate forms of
199 service and programs of varying length and available for varying ages. However we believe that
200 shorter term programs of weeks and months and programs for mature adults can be well
201 supported by families and persons engaged in such service. We have chosen to focus these
202 scholarships on youth of post high school through college age and early young adults who are
203 giving full time and year long to their pursuits. When appropriate the Mission and Service
204 Endowment fund could still be available for service programs that are other than the year-long
205 envisioned in the scholarship fund. Longer term and vocational mission commitments need to be
206 given special consideration by our Witness Commission.
207

208 X. List of Accredited Colleges and Universities of an Anabaptist Denomination 209 Related to MCC

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211 Mennonite Church USA

- 212 • Bethel College
- 213 • Bluffton University
- 214 • Eastern Mennonite University
- 215 • Goshen College
- 216 • Hesston College

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218 Mennonite Church Canada

- 219 • Conrad Grebel College
- 220 • Canadian Mennonite University
- 221 • Columbia Bible College

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223 US Conference of Mennonite Brethren Churches

- 224 • Fresno Pacific University
- 225 • Tabor College

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227 Brethren in Christ Church

- 228 • Messiah College

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230 Conservative Mennonite Conference

231 • Rosedale Bible College

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234XI. List of Mennonite Seminary Programs

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236 • Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary

237 • Eastern Mennonite Seminary

238 • Fresno Pacific Biblical Seminary

239 • Graduate Theological Studies program of Conrad Grebel University College – Toronto

240 Mennonite Theological Centre

241 • Winnipeg Centre for Ministry Studies

242 • Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary at ACTS – British Columbia

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244XII. List of Mennonite Service Programs

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246 Since programs and requirements change from time to time, the following are examples only.

247 Scholarship eligibility will be determined by application to the Education and Service

248 Scholarship Committee.

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250 Mennonite Mission Network

251 • Mennonite Voluntary Service

252 • Service Adventure

253 • Radical Journey

254 • DOOR: Dwell

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256 Mennonite Central Committee

257 • SALT – Service and Learning Together

258 • Seed