

**COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH
1900 SOUTH MAIN STREET
GOSHEN, IN 46526**

CONGREGATIONAL STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PLAN
(For members and their immediate family who participate in congregational life)

1. PURPOSE

- a) College Mennonite Church recognizes that one of the responsibilities of the congregation is to assist our church community with the Christian nurture of youth and to provide adequate opportunity for education of its members, both in preparation for a vocation and for fullest participation in the life of the church. This, we believe, is especially important for the training of youth, for leadership training in the church, and in fact for training in the exercise of all the gifts of the Spirit in the church. We, therefore, believe that a Bethany Christian or a Mennonite College or seminary education should be available to any member of the congregation who feels called upon to improve his/her skills and to deepen his/her understanding of the Christian walk.

2. BASIC PHILOSOPHY

- a) The Congregational Student Financial Aid Plan has been established by the College Mennonite Church for the following purposes:
- b) To affirm our belief in the distinct values of Christian education in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition;
- c) To encourage our members to pursue Christian education at our own church schools;
- d) To help meet financial disability which may serve as a barrier to prevent an individual from enrolling at Bethany Christian Schools or one of the Mennonite church colleges or seminaries under the auspices of the Mennonite Education Agency: Bethel College (KS), Bluffton College, Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College, Hesston College, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Eastern Mennonite Seminary;
- e) To promote a spirit of brotherhood sharing and servanthood in our congregation; and,
- f) To give our young people further opportunity to learn about and appreciate the Anabaptist-Mennonite vision.

3. OPERATING PRINCIPLE

- a) The operating principle of the student financial aid plan is to make up part of the difference that now exists between the cost of education at a church school and what a person would need to spend at a tax-supported, state or community-operated institution. It is meant to reduce the financial factor as determinative in a student's decision-making. **Although not a requirement of support, families of applicants are encouraged to contribute to the plan as much of the anticipated tuition grant as they are able.** Together with the contributions of others, this allows the congregation to also fully support applicants whose financial resources might otherwise prevent them from choosing education at a church school.

4. OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES

- a) The Discipling Commission has appointed a Student Aid Committee to administer the Student Financial Aid Plan for the congregation. The committee includes Lori Copsey, Tim Drescher, Donald Ebersole, Chair, Lori Hochstetler, Del King, Matthew Linda, and Scott Litwiller
- b) Members of College Mennonite Church and their immediate families, who regularly participate in congregational life and their children, are eligible to receive tuition grants from the CMC student aid fund. In addition, the Discipling Commission may choose to approve tuition grants on an exceptional, usually one-time basis, for applicants who may not yet fully meet eligibility requirements (e.g. Households new to the congregation participating with a view to membership or youth who participate with a view to membership independently of parents who are not part of another local Mennonite congregation). Families beginning to attend CMC after the school year begins will not be eligible for tuition grants until the beginning of the next school year.
- c) Students must be enrolled at Bethany Christian or at an institution of higher education that is under the auspices of the Mennonite Education Agency: (Bethel College (KS), Bluffton College, Eastern Mennonite University, Goshen College, Hesston College, Eastern Mennonite Seminary and Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary.
- d) Tuition grants will be awarded only to students who are attending full time except for seminary enrollment where the full tuition (minus other gift aid) is paid.
- e) **Stipends for college students will be limited to not more than nine semesters.**
- f) Applications for tuition grants must be submitted annually. The attached application form must be completed, signed and returned. The priority date for receiving applications in the church office will be February 10, 2019. **All eligible students are expected to submit a student aid application to the church by that date. Late applications may be considered by the committee for a potentially reduced award. (IN ADDITION, ALL COLLEGE AND SEMINARY STUDENT APPLICANTS ARE REQUIRED TO ALSO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE AT THE INSTITUTION WHERE ATTENDING BEFORE THE INSTITUTION'S DEADLINE.)**
- g) First semester recipients are automatically eligible for second semester without reapplying.

5. BENEFIT

- a) According to the College Mennonite Church student aid policy, grants are intended to provide 50 % of the tuition for students attending Bethany Christian and 15% for one of the Mennonite colleges, and half tuition for seminary students.
- b) A reduction formula will be used to set the stipend for college students who receive 75% or more of their tuition in the form of “gift aid” (grants, scholarships, or discounts) from other sources. A student who receives “gift aid” from other sources equaling or exceeding the student’s full tuition will forgo the College Mennonite Church tuition grant.

The actual amount awarded is contingent upon a) the number of applicants, and b) the amount of money available in the fund for this purpose.