

**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 Stewardship Committee has appointed the CMC Student Aid Committee to administer the Student Financial Aid Plan for the congregation. The committee includes Jared Leaman, Lori Copsey, Del King (Chair), Matthew Lind, Scott Litwiller, Bob Yoder, Gabi Brenneman-Ochoa, and Donald Ebersole (ex-officio).
- 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 Stewardship Committee 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) Definition of Eligibility:
 - 1. Mennonite Colleges: Scholarships are for undergraduate studies only.
 - 2. Mennonite Seminaries: All degree levels are eligible.
 - 3. Bethany Christian School: Beginning in the 2021-22 school year, scholarships are for students in grades 6 through 12.
 - 4. The committee may provide nominal stipends for Bethany students in grades 5 and under.
- g) Applications for tuition grants must be submitted annually. The due date for online applications is the 2nd Sunday in March. **All eligible students are expected to complete an online application by that date. Late applications may be assessed a penalty of 15% (or more) depending on availability of funds. (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). No applications will be considered after May 15.**
- h) First semester recipients are automatically eligible for second semester without reapplying.

5. BENEFIT

- a) According to the CMC student aid policy, grants will be based on an estimated maximum dollar amount for all qualifying students attending a qualifying school. The CMC Student Aid Committee will announce the estimated maximum amount no later than the date of the meetings where applications are distributed.
- b) The estimated maximum amount for any person receiving significant “gift aid” (grants, scholarships, or discounts) from other sources based on a formula of 50% of tuition at Bethany, 15% at Mennonite Colleges, and 50% of tuition at Mennonite Seminaries. In no case will the sum exceed the estimated maximum amount.
- c) 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.