

SECTION 3.00 Financial Policies

Subsection 3.01A

Hesston College and Others Scholarship Fund

Congregational Student Financial Aid Plan (Equal Aid Plan)

The Menno Mennonite Church recognizes that one of the needs of the congregation is to provide adequate opportunity for the 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 the training in the exercise of all the gifts of the Spirit in the church. We therefore believe that a Mennonite College or seminary education should be available to all members of the congregation who feel called to improve their skills and to deepen their understanding of the Christian walk.

Basic Philosophy The congregational Student Financial Aid Plan has been established by Menno Mennonite Church for the following purposes:

1. To affirm our belief in the distinct values of Christian education in the Anabaptist Mennonite tradition.
2. To encourage our members to pursue Christian education at our own church schools.
3. To eliminate financial disability as the barrier which may prevent an individual from enrolling at one of our Mennonite Church colleges or seminaries.
4. To promote a spirit of mutual sharing and servanthood in our congregation.
5. To give our young people further opportunity to learn about and appreciate the Anabaptist vision.

Operating Principle: 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 operated institution. For college and seminary students it is meant to reduce the financial factor as determination in a student's decision making.

Operational Procedures:

1. The Menno Church Board along with the Treasurer of the Menno Mennonite Church will administer the Student Financial Aid Plan for the congregation.
2. Each January the Deacons/Treasurer will publicize the availability of scholarships to the congregation.
3. Aid is available to members of the Menno Mennonite Church and their immediate families. Any exception must have approval of the Deacons who comprise the Menno Church Board.

4. Aid is available for enrollment at Eastern Mennonite College, Goshen College, Hesston College, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, or the Anabaptist Biblical Seminary.
5. By March 1 the amount that each student will receive shall be established. Members should be notified of this source of assistance at this time.
6. Candidates for aid from this fund shall follow the standard procedures of applying for admission and financial aid at the Mennonite College or seminary of their choice.
7. The Treasurer or other delegated representative of the Menno Mennonite Church will communicate to the college financial aid office the names of members planning to enroll and the amount of the grant by March 15. Allowances will have to be made for persons deciding later to enroll. The college financial aid package will then include the congregational aid as one source of assistance. In those special cases where congregational assistance would replace other gift aid, the college will notify the congregation and congregational funds will be withheld for that student for that year, to be used by the congregation for other students then or later.
8. Shortly before each enrollment period the treasurer of the congregation will issue a check to the appropriate college financial aid office for equal disbursement to the designated recipients for each enrollment period during the normal academic year.

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