

Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship Scholarship Guidelines

We at Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship would like to support our youth in attending college. We are anxious to help our youth in their walk with God, and one measure of that is ongoing fellowship within a church community. Statistics correlating education with church attendance show that if a young person attends a Mennonite College they are most likely to remain within the Mennonite Church as an adult. In contrast, they are least likely to remain within a church community if they don't attend college at all. In between those two are attendance at a State College or University and or at another denomination's college.

In order to actively demonstrate support for our youth in a decision to attend college, we would like to provide them with some financial assistance while they are in school. The following guidelines have been developed to help provide this assistance. If you have comments or questions about the guidelines, please share them with the Treasurer, Education Coordinator, or anyone on the Leadership Team.

- Each year we will include in the budget proposal for HPMF an amount adequate to provide \$500 per semester to each youth who qualifies under these guidelines.
- We would like to assist youth in attending college regardless of the specific institution they decide to attend. Some church-supported colleges (including all those associated with the Mennonite church) match assistance given by the congregation up to a certain level, and thus our gift is effectively higher (\$1,000 per semester) for those youth who attend a Mennonite institution, although the gift provided directly by HPMF is equivalent for all.
- Consistent with our Anabaptist heritage or choice as an adult, financial assistance will be provided based on the church participation of the youth, and not their parents. Youth receiving financial assistance from HPMF should be regular attenders and active participants in church life at least a year prior to the start of their college education. Exceptions should be made to this guideline for youth who, for example, move to the area from another location during their senior year. There is no requirement or expectation with respect to continued summer church attendance once the student begins college.
- Assistance should be provided for a full year of college attendance, and should not be reliant on the continued attendance of the youth's parents at HPMF. Again, financial assistance should be based on the church participation of the youth.
- We would like to encourage good stewardship on the part of our youth, and thus students should continue to meet the academic requirements of their chosen institution. They should, for example, be in good academic standing when they apply for subsequent years of tuition assistance from HPMF.
- Youth who wish to receive this scholarship must fill out a scholarship form at least two months before they enroll. For example, a student starting the fall semester should fill out a form the July before, and a student starting in the spring semester should fill out a form the November before.

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- In addition, the student must contact Lauresta (Admin) each July (for fall semester) and November (for spring semester) to request that the scholarship be sent to the college the student is attending for each semester. Checks must be made out to the college the student is attending and be mailed or delivered to that college. Checks may not be made out to the student.
- These forms will be reviewed and the giving approved by a group newly appointed each year by the Leadership Team. This group should include individuals associated with Education, Youth Group, and Budget Committee as appropriate.
- If the church encounters financial difficulties, this program may need to be suspended. Such a decision to suspend financial assistance must be reviewed and approved at a church business meeting.

I, _____, would like to request college tuition assistance from Hyde Park Mennonite Fellowship. I have read the above guidelines and believe, to the best of my ability, that I am in compliance with them.

Signed, _____

Date _____

College attending: _____

Please send payment to (college address): _____
