

Waterford Mennonite Church Mennonite College/Seminary Aid Plan

Introduction

Waterford Mennonite Church recognizes that one of the needs of the congregation is to provide adequate opportunity for the spiritual of attenders, both in preparation for a vocation and for fullest participation in the life of the church. We want to make it possible for students to enter educational programs that can prepare them for a vocation and for the fullest expression of their gifts in the life and mission of the church.

Basic Philosophy

The congregational Mennonite College/Seminary Aid Plan has the following purposes:

1. To affirm our belief in the distinct values of Christian education in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition.
2. To encourage attenders to pursue Christian education at Mennonite church schools.
3. To reduce the financial burden created by attending a private Mennonite college/seminary.
4. To promote a spirit of sharing and servanthood in our congregation.
5. To give students further opportunity to learn about and appreciate Anabaptist-Mennonite theology, biblical interpretation, and lifestyle applications in today's society.

Operating Principles

The operating principle of this plan is to make up part of the difference that now exists between the cost of education at a private Mennonite college/seminary and the cost of a tax-supported, state-operated institution. It is meant to reduce the financial factor in a student's decision-making. Aid will be given in the form of grants, not as loans.

Waterford Mennonite Church has maintained a college/seminary aid plan since the early 1980s. The congregation continues to support each student who attends a Mennonite college/seminary by providing financial assistance. The plan is administered by the Mennonite Education Fund committee, which is comprised of the assistant treasurer for Mennonite Education Fund, minister to youth, and three members of the congregation approved by the Ministry Leadership Council.

The following guidelines were established to help administer this plan. All applications and/or exceptions must be reviewed by the Mennonite Education Fund committee.

Operational Procedures

1. Unless exception is granted, Mennonite College/Seminary Aid will be available only to members or regular attenders who consider this their home congregation and who have been attending Waterford Mennonite Church regularly for twelve months prior to the beginning of the term for which they are applying for assistance.

2. Waterford Mennonite intends to provide 20 percent of the cost of tuition for undergraduate study and 30 percent of the cost of tuition for seminary study. The Facilities and Finance Ministry Team will develop an annual spending plan as part of its normal procedures. If an adjustment from these levels seems appropriate, the change will be communicated as soon as possible.
3. For college and seminary aid, the MEF committee on a will review unusual requests and second semester requests on a case-by-case basis.
4. Waterford Mennonite Church will provide a grant for each student enrolled at least half-time at a Mennonite college. Students may apply for seminary assistance at any enrollment level.
5. Aid is available for undergraduate enrollment at Mennonite Church USA and Mennonite Church Canada colleges, including Goshen College (IN), Hesston College (KS), Eastern Mennonite University (VA), Bluffton University (OH), Bethel College (KS), Conrad Grebel University College (Ont.), Canadian Mennonite University (Man.) and graduate enrollment at Eastern Mennonite Seminary (VA) and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary (IN).
6. A student will qualify for a maximum of eight semesters of undergraduate college aid and up to 90 credit hours of seminary aid.
7. Students shall apply annually to the Mennonite Education Fund Committee for Mennonite College/Seminary Aid. In addition, students are expected to apply for all other forms of federal, state, and institutional aid for which they may be eligible.
8. A check payable to the appropriate college/seminary will be issued for each semester.
9. In order to be eligible, each student in traditional student programs **MUST SUBMIT AN APPLICATION** by the deadline on the application form. Students in adult (degree completion) programs are expected to complete an application by approximately two months before the beginning of attendance.

Unless meeting the exceptions listed below, late applications will be considered, at the discretion of the MEF Committee, for funding at the following amounts:

| <u>Application Submitted:</u> | <u>Maximum Possible Funding</u> |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| After May 15 th : | 50% of regular amount |
| After June 15 th : | 25% of regular amount |
| After July 15 th : | none |