



Date Approved: January 21, 2008; Grant Schedule, October 18, 2011
Approved By: Bethel Lutheran Foundation Board

CHURCH WORKER SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

Policy Statement: The Bethel Lutheran Foundation, an agency of the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Morton, Illinois, has established a church worker scholarship endowment for eligible students above the high school level. These guidelines were adopted so that the available grants will be distributed consistently.

Eligibility

Members of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church (Bethel), Morton, Illinois who attend colleges/universities/seminaries affiliated with the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod are eligible. The student must be pursuing a course of study that will lead to a full-time career in the ministry of the church (e.g., preaching, teaching, Christian education director, youth director, deaconess, etc.). They must have a letter of recommendation from the Bethel church council.

Former called staff of Bethel are eligible; they must be a member of a LCMS church and provide a letter of recommendation from their pastor to the Bethel church council for the council's endorsement. Also eligible are qualified students from our missionary churches (e.g., Brazil) who wish to attend school in the United States. A letter of recommendation from their pastor to the Bethel church council for the council's endorsement must be provided.

Application

Application should be made to the Bethel Lutheran Foundation, attention chairman or treasurer, by letter three (3) months before funds are needed. The letter should state the institution name, the course of study, the start of school term, the career goal and the student's year (e.g., freshman). If the applicant is an upper classman, the student must state that he/she meets minimum grade point standards to continue in their specific academic field.

Administration

The Bethel Lutheran Foundation has investments in fixed income securities (e.g., certificates of deposit) that yield specific interest rates. The principal will not be used for scholarship grants. Rather, only the interest earned by the principal will be available for grants. If requests for grants exceed the annual interest earned, or the accrued interest earned, the Foundation Board may decide to use Foundation “undesignated” funds to meet this need.

Annual grants will be made according to a schedule established by the Foundation Board. The current schedule in use is: freshman - \$550; sophomore - \$700; junior - \$850 and senior - \$1,000. Mid-year grants will be half of the schedule. Graduate student grant amounts will be determined by the Foundation Board but will be no less than senior grant.

If there are no grants for two (2) consecutive years, the interest will be carried over for subsequent grants, or, at the discretion of the Foundation Board it may become part of the principal. If there are no grants in year three and subsequent years, the annual earned interest may be provided to the Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri to help a seminarian at the discretion of the Foundation Board.

Applicants who are awarded scholarship grants will be notified by letter from the Foundation by mid-August (mid-December for half-year grants). The grant check will be forwarded to the Financial Aid Office of the college/university/seminary in which the student is enrolled or directly to the student, at the discretion of the Foundation Board.

Goal

It is the goal of the Bethel Lutheran Foundation to encourage eligible individuals to enter full-time church work. Accordingly, this Scholarship Endowment is intended to assist with school expenses and to complement the Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church Scholarship Loan program.