



111 Hillside Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14610  
Tel: (585) 473-0220  
Email: [contact@RochesterMennonite.org](mailto:contact@RochesterMennonite.org)  
[www.RochesterMennonite.org](http://www.RochesterMennonite.org)

## Education Scholarship Fund

Rationale: Rochester Mennonite Fellowship encourages higher education in Mennonite Institutions. These include: Goshen College, Bethel College, Hesston College, Eastern Mennonite University, Bluffton University, Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Eastern Mennonite University.

Following is the process for application. A form is attached to this policy.

### Application Process:

1. A student who is applying to a Mennonite College, completes the "Application for a Rochester Mennonite Fellowship scholarship" by December 1 of the year prior to starting studies in the fall. Members of the church and/or children of church members are eligible to receive a grant up to the maximum of \$ 1,000 yearly (or \$ 500 per semester).
2. A scholarship committee, which will have been formed no later than the autumn congregational meeting, will review all applications. Members of the scholarship committee will include no less than 4 people and consist of several budget committee members, one member from the Education Ministry and one from the Leadership Team. No members of the household of an applicant will on the committee.
3. Scholarship criteria include:

#### a. **Mennonite identity**

There is a strong correlation between attendance at a Mennonite college and future involvement in the denomination. Making it easier for our kids to go to a Mennonite college makes it more likely that our denomination will retain members/ grow.

#### b. **Mennonite ideals**

One can assume that students at Mennonite colleges are exploring the world and learning about the world through a framework/ lens of Anabaptist theology, ideals, and faith. We believe that it is good for us, for our children, and for the world if more people are seeking to serve God through our cultural and theological expectations of pacifism, simple living, service orientation, and compassionate caring.

#### c. **Encouragement and nurture of the body**

It lets our students know that we appreciate their choice of Mennonite education and is a concrete expression of that support. When you choose Mennonite institutions for learning (as with any college) there are things you gain and things you lose and we are saying that the things you gain are very important.

4. Decisions about recipients of scholarship funds will be made by January 15, in order to have information by the January congregational meeting. Students will be notified by January 31 by a member of the Rochester Mennonite Fellowship scholarship committee.
5. In order to qualify for matching funds, the appropriate colleges will be notified of students receiving scholarships at Rochester Mennonite Fellowship by their respective deadlines (approximately March 1).
6. Funds for the Fall semester will be mailed to the appropriate college by August 15 for the Fall semester and December 15 for the spring semester.
7. Students will be notified of the need to re-apply for the Scholarship on an annual basis.

Source of Funds: The Rochester Mennonite Fellowship Education Fund is maintained by yearly Special Offerings. During years where the church is actively providing scholarships, the budget committee may propose to the congregation adding a line item to our operating budget that year, to supplement the Education Fund. If any funds are not used that year, the funds return to the Education Fund. This policy meets the guidelines of the Mennonite colleges and complies with Internal Revenue Service regulations.

Date: This document was submitted to Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship on September 18, 2011 in preparation for Congregational meeting on October 2, 2011.