

Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship (RAMF) Scholarship Fund

We at RAMF wish to support students who are continuing their education at Mennonite institutions. It is hoped that we will be able to fund undergraduate studies, graduate and seminary studies, and certificate or professional studies. We offer a scholarship of up to \$1000 per year not to exceed the full amount of tuition a student is charged and renewable annually for as long as the recipient meets scholarship criteria. It is our understanding that most institutions for which we would provide a scholarship will be matching the award that we provide with an equal award from the institution. Any student in our midst is welcome to apply for a scholarship. The Application consists of naming all of the colleges to which you are applying and declaring which ones you would like the Scholarship Committee to inform of our decision to grant an award. It will also include a description of the applicants rationale for choosing the particular institution or course of study and of what the applicant hopes to gain from their studies.

Scholarship awards will be based on RAMF's available funds and on how well the following criteria are met.

Scholarship Criteria:

1. Mennonite Identity

There is a strong correlation between attendance at a Mennonite college and future involvement in our denomination. Making it easier for students to attend a Mennonite college makes it more likely that our denomination will remain healthy. Institutions that clearly further a student's Mennonite identity are Goshen College, Bethel College, Hesston College, Eastern Mennonite University, Bluffton University, Canadian Mennonite University, Eastern Mennonite Seminary, and Associated Mennonite Biblical Seminary.

2. Mennonite Ideals

One can expect 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. In addition to the Mennonite institutions, Brethren and Mennonite-Brethren institutions would probably further a student's Mennonite ideals.

3. Mutual Encouragement and Nurture of the Body

A scholarship award is a concrete expression of support and appreciation for the students among us. The learning and experience gained by attending Mennonite institutions is valuable to the student themselves, to our congregation, to the Church, and to the world. Priority is given to students personally involved in the life of Rochester Area Mennonite Fellowship.

The Application Process:

A student who is applying to an institution of learning completes the “Application for a RAMF Scholarship” by December 31st of the year prior to commencing studies. Students are eligible to receive a grant award of up to \$500 per semester or \$1000 annually. Any student meeting the other scholarship criteria may apply, but again, priority is given to members or children of members of RAMF. Applications received after the 31st of December will be given full consideration for any money still available in the Education Fund.

A Scholarship Committee, which will have been formed no later than the autumn congregational meeting, will review all applications. The Scholarship Committee will have at least four members and ideally consist of budget committee and at least one representative each from Education Committee and Leadership Team. It will not contain any members from the households of any applicants. If a student from such a household unexpectedly applies after the Committee has been formed, the affected member of the Scholarship Committee will be replaced by another member of the congregation.

By the 15th of January the Scholarship Committee will determine whether or not to approve each application that they have received. By that same date, in order to have necessary financial information for the January congregational meeting, the Scholarship Committee will also propose to the Budget Committee a total dollar amount desired to fund the approved applications.

In order to qualify for matching funds, the appropriate colleges will be notified by their respective deadlines for students receiving the RAMF Scholarship (approximately March 1st). Funds for the Fall semester will be mailed to the appropriate college by 15 August and by 15 December for the Spring semester.

Students who have already been awarded a RAMF scholarship will need to notify the RAMF Scholarship Committee of their continuing eligibility by 31 December on an annual basis.

Source of Funds:

Scholarships are disbursed from the RAMF Education Fund, which is added to by Special Offerings and donations.

During years when RAMF is funding a student, the budget committee may propose adding a line item to our operating budget which would supplement the Fund. If any money from an offered scholarship remains unused, the money will be returned to the Education Fund.

This policy meets the guidelines of the Mennonite colleges and complies with Internal Revenue Service regulations to the best of our knowledge and ability.

Presented at a congregational meeting by Budget committee on 2 October 2011. Policy is approved. Subsequent Scholarship Committee is authorized to create and make available an “Application for a RAMF Scholarship” in keeping with the intention of this policy.