

MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP AID POLICY

The Ministerial Scholarship Aid program is a tangible effort of the Ohio Conference Credentialing Ministry to be involved in the development and improvement of ministerial leadership. By providing financial assistance for formal educational training, the program is designed to encourage both those preparing for ministerial service in the Mennonite Church and those wanting to grow in ministerial competence.

A priority is that the educational experience of pastors and other ministry persons include opportunities to become familiar with Anabaptist/believers' church history, perspectives on theology, and Biblical studies. The Credentialing Ministry also affirms the values of Clinical Pastoral Education for both persons who are already in pastoral ministry and persons preparing for pastoral ministry.

1. Ministerial Scholarship Aid for the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA shall be administered by the Credentialing Ministry.
2. Scholarship Aid funds are available to applicants who are currently members of congregations in the Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA.
3. Scholarship Aid is made to qualified individuals who attend one of the colleges or seminaries of the Mennonite Church, in pursuit of training for ministerial leadership. Scholarship Aid is also available to qualified individuals who are taking training beyond college or beyond seminary level.
4. Scholarship Aid may also be considered for ministerial training by credentialed persons serving in the Ohio Conference who have provided adequate reason for attendance at a non-Mennonite educational institution.
5. Scholarship aid grants will be available in five year cycles, with the first year of the applicant's cycle being the year his/her first grant is issued.
6. The funds available to any individual shall not exceed \$1,000 per year, with a maximum of \$2,000 available to any one individual for his/her training experiences during a five-year period.
7. Scholarship Aid will be granted after the qualified individual has submitted an application to the Credentialing Ministry. Applications should be made before the anticipated training begins.
8. Scholarship Aid will be distributed to applicants without regard of establishing greater or lesser need. It is assumed that all persons applying for assistance do have genuine need. In a year when the fund may not be great enough to provide the maximum to each applicant, funds will be distributed among all the applicants.

No repayment of funds received is required.

Application Procedure

- a. Applicants should obtain the "Request for Ministerial Scholarship Aid Application" from:

*An electronic form is available by contacting LaVonne Hartman at bhlh@wcoil.com. This form is preferred by the committee. The pastor's signature on the form can be given by an e-mail to LaVonne Hartman indicating approval.

*A printed form is available by contacting:
Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA
Attn: Judy King
PO Box 210
Kidron, Ohio 44636
Telephone: 330-857-5421

- b. Applicants should complete the form and submit it as soon as one is aware of courses desired. **Please send the completed application to LaVonne Hartman at bhlh@wcoil.com or 6290 Billymack Rd, Elida, OH 45807.** Application deadline is three months prior to the date when funding is requested by the educational institution.
- c. Applicants will be notified by email or letter, regarding the Credentialing Ministry's official action on their requests for Ministerial Scholarship Aid.
- d. Ministerial Scholarship Aid monies will be sent directly to the educational institution to be applied to the applicant's account.

Credentialing Ministry
Ohio Conference of Mennonite Church USA