

D-13

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PURPOSE

The Christian Ministry Scholarship Fund is established, to provide encouragement and financial assistance to members of St. Mark Lutheran Church who are college juniors or seniors studying areas of professional non-ordained service in the church (lay ministry). Declared majors in Christian ministry based in the theology department of any college may include, but not be limited to, the fields of Theology, Christian Education, Church Music and the Arts, Church Administration, Professional Service (i.e. campus, camp or parish ministry; counseling).

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SHOLARSHIP FUND

The Christian Ministry Scholarship Fund will be a specific common fund appearing on the balance sheet, Funding for this will come from the congregation's regular giving. A monthly budgeted amount, as needed to maintain the fund, will be determined annually by the Board of Elders and recommended to the Board of Trustees for consideration in the annual budgeting process. Once approved by the Council, the monthly funds shall be added to the common Christian Ministry Fund for distribution directly to the college or university for each approved student while they attend.

RESPONSIBILITY

The Board of Elders shall establish and oversee the operation of a Scholarship Ministry Team and appoint three or more members of the congregation to it.

The Scholarship Ministry Team shall:

1. Review applicant eligibility against requirements herein established. Eligibility exceptions may be considered by the Scholarship Ministry Team to accommodate special circumstances.
2. Recommend through the Board of Elders to the Church Council candidates for approval of scholarship assistance.
3. Monitor approved candidates, through college years for continued adherence to requirements - by way of transcript or grade report.
4. Recommend through the Board of Elders to the Church Council annual Scholarship Fund budget and individual student distributions.

A single Scholarship Ministry Team may be tasked with the administration of both the Christian Ministry Scholarship Fund and Seminarian Scholarship Fund.

If a Scholarship Ministry Team, Board of Elders or Council family member is seeking funding, that member must recuse himself or herself from the process for that Candidate.

PROCEDURE

A. ELIGIBILITY

1. Scholarships are merit-based and awarded annually to students entering their junior or senior year enrolled full time as defined by the school at an accredited college or university.
2. Student eligibility must also include:
 - Member of good standing at St. Mark Lutheran Church as defined in its constitution.
 - Active participation in the life of St. Mark or another Christian Church.
 - Grades of “C” or better.

B. APPLICATION

1. Applicants may reapply for up to two years.
2. The Scholarship Ministry Team will recommend to the Board of Elders applicants completed application form including a topic essay and a personal interview. The Elders will review and present approved scholarship requests to the Church Council for final approval.
3. The deadline for submitting the application form and essay is May 15. Interviews will take place during the month of June. The Scholarship Ministry Team will announce awards and award checks will be sent directly to the college or university in August.
4. Application Form is attached.

**ST. MARK CHRISTIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP
FUND
APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant Name _____

Current Address _____

Cell Phone Number where Ministry Team can reach you _____

E-mail Address _____

Year you became member of St, Mark _____

College Junior or Senior (circle) _____ Year of Expected Graduation _____

Degree major _____

College/University _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Parents/Family Name _____

Address _____

Are your Parents/Family members of St. Mark? Yes NO (circle)

Please answer the following questions. You may attach additional sheets if necessary.

- Complete a brief statement of your Faith.
- What led you to this career path and why did you choose the major you are studying?
- What activities have you in the past, and currently, participated in as a Christian?
- Briefly describe a person or situation at St. Mark that has influenced you.

Please type 3 to 5 paragraphs on one of the following questions based on the year of undergraduate study you will begin in the fall. In addition, include a half to full-page typed narrative that describes your plans.

Junior Applicants - answer the following question:

Why should the Scholarship Committee consider awarding you scholarship funds?

Senior Applicants - answer the following question:

When you complete your college studies, how do you plan to continue growing in your Christian faith?

Signature, _____ Date, _____ (mm/dd/yyyy)

Please return this completed application questions, essay and narrative by May 15th to”:

**Scholarship Ministry Team
St. Mark Lutheran Church
1822 E Grand Avenue
Lindenhurst, IL 60046**