

D-12

SEMINARIAN MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

PURPOSE

It is a goal of St. Mark Lutheran Church to assist in producing new Lutheran Pastors who believe and preach that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible true Word of God. It is an honor for a church to call as its own a seminary student. Hence, St. Mark Lutheran Church holds the responsibility to encourage, pray for and financially assist each new pastoral Candidate who comes from our congregation,

The financial assistance part of this goal is the Seminarian Scholarship Fund.

THE SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Seminarian 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 Seminarian Fund for distribution directly to the seminary for each approved student while they attend.

RESPONSIBILITY

A. The Board of Elders Shall:

1. Establish and oversee the operation of the Scholarship Ministry Team and appoint three or more members of the congregation to it.
2. Recommend to the Board of Trustees an annual Seminarian Fund Budget.
3. Review and accept or decline Scholarship Ministry Team recommendations for applicants.
4. Recommend to the Church Council for final approval the accepted Candidates and the annual amount each approved Candidate shall have distributed directly to their seminary.

B. 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 found eligible for scholarship assistance.
3. Shepherd all approved candidates, through college and/or Seminary 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 REQUIREMENTS

The Candidate must:

1. Be a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church with at least 5 years of active service, as determined by and with the discretion of the Scholarship Ministry Team.
2. Be enrolled in good standing in a recognized theological seminary.
3. Declare his or her intent to fulfill the requirements for ordination at an accredited theological school with the stated objective of being ordained in the Lutheran Church.
4. Affirm he or she believes that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible true Word of God.
5. Accept and affirm as his or her own, all of the Statement of Faith in the St. Mark Lutheran Church Constitution.
6. Keep the congregation of St. Mark Lutheran Church and its leadership informed of progress throughout the seminary process and maintain a status of Seminarian in good standing by way of transcript or grade report provided to the Scholarship Ministry Team.

B. APPROVAL OF CANDIDATES

1. A Candidate must submit a letter of intent to attend seminary to the Scholarship Ministry Team prior to May 15 and the Council's annual budget creation.
2. The Scholarship Ministry Team shall identify, interview and evaluate each candidate for meeting all the eligibility requirements as set forth in Section A above.
3. The Scholarship Ministry Team shall present to eligible Candidates to the Board of Elders for approval to receive funds from the general Seminarian Fund.
4. The Board of Elders will review and present the approved Candidates to the Church Council for final approval affirming that the spiritual requirements of the Candidate are met, and it shall recommend the annual amount from the Seminarian Fund to be gifted to the student. The gift recommendation for a Part Time Seminarian, as defined in Section C below, shall be one-half of the gift amount granted for a Full Time Seminarian.
5. The Council shall approve, authorize and make available for disbursement the Seminarian Fund gift to the student. Council shall notify the Board of Elders and the Scholarship Ministry Team of the details of its Candidate approval and annual gift.
6. The Scholarship Ministry Team shall inform the student of the Council action.
7. The deadline for submitting the application form and essay is May 15. Interviews will take place during the month of June. Awards will be announced by the Scholarship Ministry Team.
8. Award checks will be sent directly to the seminary in August.
9. Application Form attached.

C. DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS

1. **A Full Time Seminarian**, as defined by the Seminary, shall be gifted by the Council approved annual amount from the general Seminarian Fund for up to four (4) years. The payment of these funds must go directly to the Seminary on behalf of the seminarian.
2. **A Part Time Seminarian**, as defined by the Seminary, shall be gifted by the Council approved annual amount from the general Seminarian Fund for up to four (4) years. The payment of these funds must go directly to the Seminary on behalf of the seminarian. The Board of Elders reserves the right to offer a Part Time Seminarian the option of a one-time renewal of the term for a maximum of eight (8) total years of support.

ST. MARK SEMINARIAN SCHOLARSHIP FUND

APPLICATION FORM

Applicant Name _____

Current Address _____

Cell Phone Number where the Ministry Team can reach you _____

E-mail Address _____

Year you became member of St, Mark _____

College Junior or Senior, Seminary Year ____ (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 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?

Seminary Applicants - answer the following question:

What do you expect as the focus of your ministry when you graduate based on your seminary experience?

I affirm that I believe that the Bible is the inerrant and infallible true Word of God. Further, I accept and affirm, as my own, all of the Statements of Faith in the St. Mark Lutheran Church Constitution.

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