

CHRISTIAN & GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP
FUND POLICY

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
 STERLING, COLORADO

I. PREAMBLE

The members of First Christian Church believe that part of our mission and stewardship as a church is the education and nurturing of church members for both secular and religious careers. Therefore, this policy is written with the intent of providing some financial assistance through scholarship funds for persons seeking post-secondary education, graduate education and/or church/religious training. It further establishes guidelines to administer the development and provision of these funds.

II. FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

The First Christian Church Scholarship Committee shall be comprised of the Chair of the Trustees, Chair of Stewardship, and three lay members of First Christian Church who will be appointed by the Chairperson of the Board. The term of the three members appointed by the chairperson shall be for three years on a staggered basis; the senior lay members shall chair this committee.

III. CHRISTIAN AND GENERAL EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible to apply for a scholarship the applicant must:

- A. Be an active participating member of the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Sterling, CO.
- B. Be a high school or college graduate, or have earned their G.E.D.
- C. Be a better than average student (at least a B (3.00) average on a 4.00 scale). The most recent grade transcript must be submitted with application, unless the applicant has been out of school for more than five years.
- D. Be enrolled in an accredited school, trade school, or in a church-related training program at the time funds are allocated.
- E. Provide references from a pastor, lay leader, teacher/school counselor/professor.
- F. Make a complete renewal application each year if eligible.

IV. COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The Scholarship Committee shall be responsible each year for the following steps to be taken as a part of the process of selection of scholarship recipients:

1. Disseminate information no later than February 15 of each year through the *Sterling Messenger* and church services about the availability of scholarships and the procedures for applying to the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).
2. Continually strive to acquaint members and friends of First Christian Church with the purpose and continuing needs of the scholarship fund. As such, the Scholarship Committee will strive to raise Scholarship funds as indicated below.
3. Receive applications for scholarships by April 1 and review them no later than April 15.

4. Make recommendations to the Church Board, no later than the May Board Meeting, of the names and amounts of scholarships proposed to be awarded for the succeeding academic year. Scholarships shall be limited to no more than \$250.00 applicant per academic year.
5. Notify recipients on or before June 1.
6. Make recommendations for changes in the Scholarship Fund Policy to the Church Board if and when such changes appear to be warranted.

V. RAISING OF SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

The Scholarship Committee shall seek to develop this fund by several means:

1. Scholarship Fund Sunday to be held at least annually during the month of January to inform the congregation as to the use and financial needs of the fund and to recognize the issuance of the scholarships.
2. Receipt of donations, designated and undesignated gifts, and as beneficiaries named in wills and bequests from interested individuals and families. Undesignated gifts, donations or bequests to the Scholarship Fund shall be allocated equally between the Timothy Scholarship Fund and the Christian and General Education Scholarship Fund, to be available for individual scholarships.
3. Work with the Trustees of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in making appropriate investment decisions (with Board approval) of any accumulated and designated investment moneys.
4. From the Wills and Bequest Permanent Fund investment, ten percent (10%) of the interest earned each year will be automatically designated for the purpose of establishing Christian and General Education Scholarships (beginning at the time of approval of this policy).

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE DETAILS

A. Any funds allocated for scholarships during any year that remain unused during any academic year shall be added to the amount of funds available for use from that fund in the next academic year.

B. Any applicant who meets all eligibility requirements shall receive an equal amount of the money available for scholarships for the coming academic year.

VII. APPLICATIONS

An application form is available in the church office. A new application must be completed and returned each year to be considered for additional scholarship funds. Application must be completed and returned to the church office prior to the start of the educational program and no later than April 1.

Scholarship money will be awarded in the recipient's name, made payable to the chosen institution, 2 weeks prior to the beginning of class by the Trustees following Board approval.

VIII. AMENDMENTS

This policy may be amended from time to time upon recommendation of the Scholarship Committee and approval of the Church Board.