

Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship Student Financial Aid Policy

Background

As a congregation, we are aware of the importance of the church college and seminary in preparing people for responsible church membership and church leadership. Today, when our young people decide to go to college, they soon realize that the costs of attending one of our Mennonite Colleges may be at least double the costs of attending a state university or local community college. Due to the financial burden it places on some of our students to attend a Mennonite college, some students feel that they do not have a choice.

Basic Philosophy

In order to provide some financial assistance to encourage our young people to attend our Mennonite colleges and seminaries, Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship has established the Student Financial Aid Plan for the following reasons:

1. To affirm our belief in the distinct values of Christian education in the Anabaptist-Mennonite tradition.
2. To encourage our members to pursue Christian education at our own church schools.
3. To reduce the financial barrier that must be overcome in enrolling at one of our Mennonite colleges or seminaries.
4. To promote a spirit of mutual sharing and servanthood in our congregation.
5. To give our young people further opportunity to learn about and appreciate the Anabaptist vision.

Specific Purpose of the Plan

The specific purpose of providing financial aid is to make up part of the difference that now exists between the cost of education at a church school and what a person would need to spend at a tax-supported, state-operated institution. In order to provide incentives for congregations to administer student financial aid plans, most Mennonite colleges will match the first \$500 contributed through the congregational student financial aid plan.

Eligibility

1. The Berkey Student Financial Aid Plan is available to active members of Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship and their immediate families. When there are questions about who is eligible, a determination will be made by the Christian Education Commission in consultation with the Elders. Financial aid is available to those who attend an eligible school on a full time basis as defined by the school in which they enroll.
2. Eligible Mennonite colleges and seminaries include all colleges and seminaries under the direct sponsorship of the Mennonite Church USA. Eligible schools include: Goshen College, Hesston College, Eastern Mennonite University and Seminary, Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary, Bluffton University, and Bethel College.

Addendum (approved by the congregation on November 15, 2009)

After high school, some young people in our congregation who have special needs may need further educational or vocational training which the colleges of the Mennonite Church USA do not offer. These programs can be quite expensive.

Therefore Berkey Avenue Mennonite Fellowship will provide up to \$1,000 per student per year for young people with special needs who desire specialized education or vocational training at a non-Mennonite school.

This is available to active members of the congregation and to persons from their immediate families. When questions of eligibility arise, a determination will be made by the Christian Education Commission in consultation with the elders.