

Scholarship Fund Procedures

Purpose

The Prairie Star District Board authorized the creation of a scholarship fund to subsidize attendance at future Annual Conferences for those who could not otherwise attend.

The purpose of Annual Conference Scholarships is to:

1. Increase diversity
2. Increase financial accessibility
3. Get seminarians in the habit of attending
4. Build commitment of youth and young adults
5. Encourage denominational awareness among current leaders in congregations

Donations

The Annual Conference web site should encourage donations to the fund, and the Annual Conference registration form should provide the option to make a voluntary contribution to this fund.

Scholarship Applications

Criteria for awarding scholarships and an application form will be available on the Annual Conference pages of the PSD web site **in the fall**.

The first round of scholarships each year will be awarded based on applications received as of noon on March 4, 2009 (**in future should be 14 days before early registration deadline**). If funds still are available, additional scholarships will be awarded after that date.

Scholarship applicants should be reminded how to access information on home hospitality or carpooling options if those are available.

Selection of Recipients

Scholarship decisions will be made jointly by the District Administrator and the Annual Conference Program Area Coordinator.

Before applications are posted each year, they will decide how many scholarships of what dollar amount will be given that year based on the scholarship funds available. They will also decide on the point system for the current year.

The Scholarship Applications will be submitted to the District office.

Only applications that meet the following criteria will be considered for scholarships:

- Association with a PSD congregation is required.
- A statement of financial need on the application is required. Since we have no mechanism to assess financial need, we must rely on the conscience and integrity of the applicant.

The Administrator will assign points to each application meeting the above criteria based on a point system.

The point system used in 2009:

- First Time Attendee - 2 points (suggest changing to 1 point)
- Seminary Student - 2 points
- Youth or Young Adult - 2 points
- Ethnic Minority (should we add "or GLBTQ"?)- 2 points
- Holds Leadership Position in Local Congregation - 1 point
- Congregational Delegate - 1 point
- Travel distance in miles divided by 300 miles (retain the fraction) points

Points will be totaled and applicants ordered by point total. In case of a tie in points, the application received first will be placed first. Scholarships will be awarded to those with the highest point totals up to the number of scholarships available. If there are any questions about the eligibility of an applicant, assignment of point values, breaking of ties, or any other issue the Administrator and Program Coordinator will discuss and come to an agreement.

Notification of Recipients

First round applicants will be notified by email on Thursday, March 5 (in future should be 7 days before early registration deadline) as to whether they received or did not receive scholarships.

Scholarship recipients must register and pay the full registration fee.

Scholarship checks will be distributed at the Annual Conference.

Note: Yellow highlighted areas are changes from 2009.