

GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR MISSION SCHOLARSHIP GRANTS PRESBYTERY OF SHENANGO, PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)

The Mission, Communication, and Stewardship Committee of Shenango Presbytery seeks to promote and support the mission of the General Assembly, the Synod of the Trinity, the Presbytery of Shenango, and the Church at large, by a continuing program of interpretation and stewardship. To this end, we offer mission scholarship grants to members of the congregations of Shenango Presbytery to encourage their individual Christian growth, the mission focus of their congregation, and the involvement of Presbytery with the mission of the Church.

The guidelines for application for mission scholarship grants are:

1. The applicant must have the endorsement of the session of their congregation.
2. The grant is exclusively contingent upon the approval by the MCS committee of Shenango Presbytery. A subcommittee of the MCS committee will review grant applications and make recommendations for awards to the MCS committee as a whole. Applicants may be contacted by a member of this subcommittee in order to gain information about the project. Applicants will be notified in a timely manner after the MCS committee acts on the subcommittee's recommendation.
3. In order to encourage direct participation in mission by as many individuals in the presbytery as possible, priority for receiving scholarship grants will be given to individuals who have not previously received travel grants.. Applications for those who have previously received grants will be considered after May 1st, but may be sent in before this date.
4. Applications will be considered on a "first come, first served basis", with applications of first time applicants receiving priority as specified above. Groups and individuals are asked to not submit applications any sooner than one year before their anticipated mission trip. If a mission trip is canceled after an award has been granted, the awardees are asked to inform the MCS immediately so that the funds designated for their grant can be freed to give to others.
5. Applications may be made by individuals or by groups. The maximum award shall be \$150 per person, \$750 per group, and in no case greater than 20 percent of the trip's total cost. Groups making application, should submit as many names of group members as possible and specify whether or not each individual has received scholarship assistance from the MCS committee previously. The number of group members eligible for first time awards will be considered when initially determining the amount of the group's award.

6. Mission teams comprised of members from different churches in the Presbytery must submit a joint application. Only one grant that covers the whole team can be made. The application should specify all of the churches with members on the team and list all known team members. If a grant is awarded, it will be the responsibility of the team's leadership to distribute the grant funds in an equitable manner to the churches represented on the team.
7. The applicant will be expected to interpret their mission experience both within their own congregation, and to other congregations in the presbytery. Individuals or groups will be expected to interpret their experience to at least two other churches if they are asked to do so. Applicants who have been unwilling to interpret their project in past years when grants were received will not be considered for grants in future years.
8. Preference will be given to persons or groups participating in PC(USA) approved projects, but projects not directly affiliated with our denomination will also be considered.
9. Projects should be consistent with the theological consensus of the Presbytery of Shenango.
10. Care should be taken to insure that projects are responsible in their use of funds and in the mission they do.