

BETHEL MENNONITE CHURCH  
STUDENT AID COMMITTEE CHARTER

Name: The name of the committee shall be the Student Aid Committee.

Purpose: The Bethel Mennonite Church, considering itself an extended family, has established in its Constitution a congregational student aid plan to assist any student attending a Mennonite College/University or Seminary. The purpose of the plan is to expose the youth of the church family to educational and service opportunities, preparing them for participation in the life and mission of the extended church, encouraging each youth to spend at least one year at a Mennonite institution of higher learning in accordance with the goals of the Mennonite Church. Consequently, special consideration will be given to freshmen. Students who, during or after college, choose to participate in voluntary service under one of the Mennonite Church agencies may also receive assistance toward payment of student loans during a time of service.

Charter Establishment: The Administrative Council, in carrying out its administrative responsibilities for the church, adopts this charter to operationalize the activities of the Student Aid Committee as a committee of the Bethel Mennonite Church. This charter may only be amended, replaced, or rescinded with the consent of the Administrative Council as documented in its minutes.

Meetings and Transaction of Business: Meetings shall be convened by the chairperson from time to time at such place or places determined by the committee to transact the business of the committee. All business of the committee shall be conducted at meetings convened, the proceedings of which shall be reflected in the minutes of the committee.

Appointment: Members of the Student Aid Committee are nominated by the Bethel Mennonite Church Gifts Discernment Committee, and confirmed by the congregation. No person whose child will be in college or a senior in high school during the term may serve on the committee.

Number and Terms: The committee shall consist of three individuals who shall be appointed to three-year terms, the term of each expiring in successive years.

Removal: Any committee member may be removed at any time, with or without cause, by the Administrative Council of the Bethel Mennonite Church, which shall appoint another individual to fill the unexpired term.

Duties of the Committee: The members of the committee shall

1. Attend committee meetings,
2. Establish guidelines for the committee,
3. Raise funds to support the aid given,
4. Disburse funds according to guidelines established by the committee,

5. Educate the church about the purpose and activities of the committee, and
6. Intentionally assist Bethel youth to be connected to the designated Mennonite institutions of higher learning to enable them to make informed choices.

Structure: The committee shall have a chairperson and a secretary.

1. Chairperson – The chairperson shall be nominated by the Gifts Discernment Committee of the Bethel Mennonite Church and confirmed by the congregation. The chairperson shall convene the meetings of the committee and preside at all meetings. The chairperson shall act for and on behalf of the committee and perform generally all duties as may be from time to time required by the committee.
2. Secretary – The secretary shall be appointed by the Student Aid Committee. The secretary shall keep an accurate record of all transactions and minutes of the committee meetings.

Funds: Any money or other property designated for the Student Aid Fund, whether income or principle, shall be used or distributed by the committee as it may determine in accordance with the purpose and guidelines of the Student Aid Plan of the Bethel Mennonite Church. The Bethel Treasurer shall receive and distribute funds as directed by the Student Aid Committee.

The treasurer shall also, on behalf of the committee, publish no less than annually a complete financial report of the activities of the committee to the Administrative Council and the congregation of the Bethel Mennonite Church.

1. Gifts and Contributions – All gifts and contributions to the Bethel Mennonite Church Student Aid Plan shall be over and above the gifts and contributions to the regular Bethel Mennonite Church annual budget.
2. Endowment Fund – An endowment fund is established to support the Student Aid Plan of the Bethel Mennonite Church. Use of the endowment fund by the Student Aid Committee or any other body is limited to the interest or income derived from the corpus of the fund. All interest or income from the Endowment Fund is for the exclusive use of supporting the Bethel Mennonite Student Aid Plan as so designated by donors to the fund.
3. Ownership of Funds – All funds of the Student Aid Plan are the funds and property of the Bethel Mennonite Church.
4. Dissolution – Upon dissolution of the Student Aid Committee, all funds of the Student Aid Plan shall be managed or distributed by the Bethel Mennonite Church in accordance with the purpose of the so designated funds.

*Adopted by the Bethel Mennonite Church Administrative Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2007.*

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Dennis Showalter, Chairperson  
Bethel Mennonite Church

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