CCMSB Scholarship Policy

approved by CAB, November, 2024

***Guiding Principles***

Scholarship is awarded only to members in good standing of CCMSB studying at approved seminaries. Awards are not granted automatically to any member who senses a personal call to ministry or who enrolls in seminary, but is reserved for those who, at the discretion of the pastoral staff (subject to the approval of CAB), have also demonstrated appropriate character, personality, gifts, and commitment. CCMSB scholarship is a gift, toward tuition costs, subject to the availability of funds. Scholarship is not an entitlement, but is based on actual need. Scholarship holders must maintain adequate levels of ministry involvement and an acceptable GPA.

The policy:

-prioritizes long-term CCMSB members;

-prioritizes primary graduate programs in theology, ministry, or missions, at accredited evangelical seminaries, undertaken with the intention of entering vocational Christian ministry;

-considers both prior ministry involvement and ongoing involvement;

-differentiates full-time from part-time educational costs.

**Basic Guidelines**

***Internship Fund*** is for final-year seminarians who hold a significant ministry position within CCMSB (e.g., two units of GCTS mentored ministry program, or the equivalent). Support level: $750/month

***Seminary Scholarship*** is for those who have served in a ministry capacity at CCMSB for a minimum of two years just prior to their studies. Support will continue for the normal duration of a full-time program. Support level: $3000 year, dispersed as $1500/semester

Maximum awards: 5 per year.

***Ministry Scholarship*** is for those who serve in a ministry capacity at CCMSB during their studies (e.g., GCTS mentored ministry program, or its equivalent). Typically, ministry scholarship requires one semester prior involvement at CCMSB under book scholarship. Exceptions will be considered with recommendation by the sponsoring pastor. Support is

annually renewable for a maximum of three years (academic year or calendar year, depending on the student’s ministry involvement). Support level: $500/month. Maximum awards: 5 per year (1 per ministry, plus 2 floating).

CCMSB members who served in a leadership capacity for a minimum of two years prior to – and continue to serve during – seminary studies, will be eligible for an additional grant of up to 20% of total tuition costs, with total scholarship not exceeding the actual cost of tuition and fees (minus any other scholarships or grants from other organizations).

***Book Scholarship*** is for active CCMSB members who enroll in any degree, diploma or certificate course at an accredited evangelical seminary, whether by extension or on-site, but who do not qualify for internship, seminary scholarship, or ministry scholarship. Support level: $500/semester (full-time; $250/semester part-time). Maximum awards: 5 full-time equivalents.

Book Scholarship may also be granted (funds permitting) to former scholarship holders who continue full-time graduate studies in theology, ministry, missions, or Christian counseling.

**Resources**

***Internship, Seminary Scholarship Fund, and Ministry Scholarship*** is supported through the standing alone Seminary fund.

**Procedure**

Application will be submitted to the prospective mentor 3-6 months ahead to permit time for review and budgeting. Scholarship awards are decided by the senior pastor (in the absence of a senior pastor, by the respective lead ministry staff), with approval of the CAB. All scholarships are subject to annual reapplication and renewal. Scholarship is not a commitment to provide employment after graduation.

Clarifications of Practice

**Approved seminaries** include (but may not be limited to):

(a) North American: Alliance Theological Seminary, Columbia Biblical Seminary, Denver Seminary, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Dallas Theological Seminary, Logos Evangelical Seminary, Talbot School of Theology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Westminster Theological Seminary;

(b) Asian: China Evangelical Seminary, China Graduate School of Theology, Singapore Bible College;

**Membership expectations:**

In the past, CCMSB would support active participants of community and ministry even if not members; moving forward, scholarship holders are to become members if here for 1+ year.

They need not surrender their membership in a home church.

**Ministry scholarship allocation:**

Fall ministry scholarship covers the months of September through December;

Winter ministry scholarship covers the month of January;

Spring ministry scholarship covers the months of February through May;

Summer ministry scholarship covers the months of June through August (or portions of the time);

Allocation is granted only for those months when the holder is serving in ministry.

**Scholarship application process:**

Candidates should approach staff for counsel early in seminary application process; initial screening prior to submission of written CCMSB scholarship application; final decision only as the semester approaches; standing review each semester based on ministry, class load, transcript, & mentor evaluation.

**Church endorsement** for seminary studies:

Provided by the senior pastor (in absence of senior, lead pastor of ministry), in consultation with CAB; financial issues s/b addressed when church endorsement or pastoral reference is sought.