



**The Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholar-Grant Program 2019 Application
DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS MARCH 15, 2019**

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2419

Introduction

The Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholar-Grant Program was conceived to encourage young people from Westminster Presbyterian Church to share their talents, follow their convictions, and expand their education outside of the traditional college classroom by participating in volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of the Church's Mission Statement.

The Mission Statement follows:

IN RESPONSE TO THE GRACE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, THE MISSION OF WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IS:

To proclaim and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ;

To gather as an open community to worship God with dignity and joy, warmth and beauty;

To nourish personal faith and commitment through study, prayer and fellowship;

To work for love, peace and justice;

To be a welcoming and caring Christian Community witnessing to God's love day by day;

To work locally and beyond with our denomination and the larger Christian church; and

To be a telling presence in the City.

Rationale

There are many opportunities for young people for growth, educational, and vocational discernment/development experiences outside the traditional college classroom. However, high educational costs, as well as other economic factors, often prevent young people from taking advantage of such opportunities and, as a result, preclude young people from sharing their talents, following their convictions, expanding their education, or pursuing their vocational calling. The Meisel Scholar-Grant Program seeks to make it possible for qualified young people to pursue such activities by providing a grant that would cover expenses, participation fees, and when appropriate, a stipend that would compensate for unearned wages. During the period of the award, each student will be paired with a Westminster member in a mentoring relationship aimed at facilitating the vocational discernment process.

Eligibility

The candidate must meet the following requirements for eligibility.

- 1) The candidate must be a member of Westminster Presbyterian Church, an active participant in Westminster programs, or have a connection to Westminster and its ministries.

- 2) The applicant must be enrolled, or have firm plans to enroll, at a qualified educational institution or program, or have recently [been enrolled in or] graduated from a qualified educational institution or program. A qualified educational institution or program includes any accredited public, nonprofit, or proprietary (private) college, university, vocational school, or other postsecondary institution or vocational-training program. Graduate students and professional-degree students are eligible to apply, but preference is given to undergraduate students.

- 3) The applicant must plan to use the grant within one calendar year of the date the funds have been awarded.

History of the Meisel Scholar-Grant Program

The Scholar-Grant Program is funded from the Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholarship Fund, which was initiated in 1987 by the Westminster Presbyterian Church Board of Trustees as one of the eight funds constituting the Westminster Endowment. The fund was established as a tribute to the Meisels for their significant contributions to the life of the church. Generous gifts from Kenneth Anderson, a former Westminster member, gave rise to this program to benefit the young people of Westminster.

Sample projects:

- A student wants to participate in a Volunteer-in-Mission project for two months in New Mexico. The Meisel Scholar-Grant program might cover the cost of transportation to the project site and pay a stipend of \$1,800.00, equivalent to estimated unearned summer wages. (The committee currently calculates lost wages at \$10/hour, though the committee will consider special financial need.)
- A student wants to participate in a Global Volunteer Project in Guatemala for two weeks during January interim. The Grant might cover the expenses of the trip: \$1,200.00. For short-term trips, generally no stipend is awarded because the loss of wages would not be significant.
- A student is asked to chair the campus food shelf project during the spring semester. To accept would necessitate giving up a campus job, due to the time commitments of the project. The student could apply to the Scholar-Grant Program for a stipend to cover unearned wages while working on the food shelf project.

Project Criteria

All projects proposed will be evaluated according to these criteria:

- 1) Compatibility with Westminster's Mission Statement.
- 2) The applicant's preparation for and articulation of the project.
- 3) The likelihood that the project will both enrich the student's understanding and benefit the community for which it is intended.
- 4) The availability of guidance and oversight by a project director or some other adult experienced in the kind of work proposed.
- 5) The applicant's willingness to share the insights gained with the Westminster congregation in, for example, forums, adult education classes, Church School classes, Youth fellowship meetings, or the Westminster NEWS.

Twin Cities Community Partnership Internships

If a student does not have a project in mind, the applicant may apply for an internship with a social action organization in the Twin Cities with whom Westminster is a community partner. These internships generally will last ten weeks. Applicants should contact Meghan Gage-Finn for more information about possible organization partnerships.

Application Procedure

Applications for the Meisel Scholar-Grant are available through Meghan K. Gage-Finn at mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org /612-332-3421 or online at www.westminsternpls.org. We strongly encourage you to discuss your plan with Meghan K. Gage-Finn, before you finalize your application. The committee will work with students to develop their proposals.

The deadline for submitting applications for Summer 2019 is March 15, 2019. Applicants will be notified by April 15th, if not sooner. Please submit electronic copy to mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org.

Donald M. and Eleanor W. Meisel Scholar-Grant Application Form

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1200 Marquette Avenue
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403-2419

I. Personal Data Today's Date _____

Name _____ Date of Birth _____

Home Address _____

E-mail address _____

Cell Phone _____

College Name _____

Campus Address _____

Status in College _____

Date you expect to graduate _____

Academic Major, areas of concentration _____

Previous schools or colleges since 9th grade:

Name	Location	Dates of Attendance	(month and year)
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_____	_____	_____	to _____
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_____	_____	_____	to _____
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_____	_____	_____	to _____
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II. Describe your connection to Westminster.

III. Describe your proposed project.

Please describe the organization / project, outline your anticipated role, describe why this is important to your career and vocational development, and reflect on its relationship to Westminster's Mission Statement. You may include letters or brochures that would help describe the project.

IV. Project Timeline (when your participation will begin and end.)

V. Costs of Participation in Project

Explain why you are seeking these funds, and how you arrived at this amount. List expenses you will incur (travel, equipment, etc.). If applicable, include the stipend you will need to compensate for unearned wages (calculated at \$10/hour.)

VI. Evaluation of Project

What are some ways you might share your experiences and insight with the Westminster community?

VII. Supervisor or Advisor During Your Project

Name: _____

Position: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please include a letter of confirmation from this individual

VIII. Previous work, volunteer experience, significant learning experience.

List position, employer/organization, dates of employment and participation, brief description of responsibilities. Also include conferences, seminars, and/or travel that you have participated in that have developed your interest in and commitment to this project.

IX. References

List two people (non-family member/friend) we may contact for additional references.

Name of Reference #1_____

Email Address_____

Email Address_____

Phone_____

Relation to you_____

Name of Reference #2_____

Email Address_____

Email Address_____

Phone: _____

Relation to you: _____

X. To the best of my knowledge, the above information is accurate and complete.

Applicant's signature_____ Date_____