



**The Donald M. and Eleanor Meisel Scholar-Grant Program 2022 Application
DEADLINE FOR APPLYING IS MARCH 15, 2022**

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 by participating in volunteer projects, study programs, social action campaigns, and focused travel in the spirit of the Church's Mission Statement.

IN RESPONSE TO THE GRACE OF GOD THROUGH JESUS CHRIST, Westminster's mission is to:

- *proclaim and celebrate the Good News of Jesus Christ;*
- *gather as an open community to worship God with dignity and joy, warmth and beauty;*
- *nourish personal faith and commitment through study, prayer and fellowship;*
- *work for love, peace and justice;*
- *be a welcoming and caring Christian Community witnessing to God's love day by day;*
- *work locally and beyond with our denomination and the larger Christian church; and*
- *be a telling presence in the City.*

Meisel Scholar-Grant Program Purpose

The purpose of the Meisel Scholar-Grant Program is to provide educational and vocational discernment through mentoring and financial support to young adults in the Westminster Presbyterian Church community. These experiences will prepare them to make a meaningful contribution to the world around them.

a. The "WPC community" includes people who belong to, are friends of, attend or work at WPC as well as any member of their families. Members of WPC's affiliated churches may also be considered.

b. "Young adults" includes those in the WPC community who are typically age 25 and under.

c. The financial support shall generally consist of a grant of \$500, \$1,000, \$2,000, and \$4,000 or other amount depending on the quality and focus of the experience, the relevance and importance of the experience to the applicant.

d. The Meisel Scholar-Grant Program shall be administered by Rev. Meghan Gage-Finn as WPC's Executive Pastor and the Meisel Committee, chaired by serving WPC elders, with additional members of WPC.

Rationale

There are many opportunities for young adults for growth, educational, and vocational discernment/development experiences. 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 basis for the award is a qualitative assessment of the value of the experience to the student. Relevant factors in determining that value could be the quality of the proposed experience and its relationship to the student's program of study or career exploration, any necessary costs of participation and/or the length of the experience and the projected benefit to the student. Financial need and prior academic achievement are potential factors as well. 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 and deepening their connection to Westminster and their faith.

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. (See above.)

2) 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 the summer in New Mexico. The Meisel Scholar-Grant program might award a total grant of \$4,000.00, reflective of the duration of the project and including the cost of transportation.
- 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: \$1,000.00.

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 westminstermpls.org/portfolio-item/young-adults/. 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 2022 is March 15, 2022. Applicants will be notified by April 15th, if not sooner. Please submit electronic copy to mgage-finn@wpc-mpls.org. Potential applicants are invited to contact Meghan Gage-Finn for opportunities that fall outside of the summer months.

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 _____

Permanent Address _____

E-mail address _____

Cell Phone _____

Current Address (if different from above)

Current status (in school, seeking employment, employed)

Details _____

Academic major, areas of concentration, or primary interests

Previous schools or colleges since 9th grade:

Name Location Dates of Attendance (month and year)

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

_____ to _____

Or

Post high school employment history:

_____ to _____

Please attach additional sheets for the following responses.

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.).

Amount of Award you are seeking:

- ___ \$500
- ___ \$1000
- ___ \$2000
- ___ \$4000

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

What would you be looking for in a mentor to support you in your project? Do you have anyone specific in mind to serve as your mentor?

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 _____