

# Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

Academic Year 2021 – 2022

**APPLICATION DUE DATE: April 20, 2021**

Beneficent Congregational Church (also referred to as Beneficent Church or the Church) encourages its members to further their education and professional development, and makes scholarships available to those pursuing degrees at accredited not-for-profit post-secondary colleges or universities, or career development and enrichment opportunities at accredited vocational or technical schools. The scholarships are awarded by the Beneficent Scholarship Committee (the Committee) without regard to race, age, socio-economic class, ethnicity, or sexual orientation.

## Ferko Endowment Scholarship Fund

The Ferko Endowment Scholarship Fund provides scholarship opportunities of up to \$5,000 (full-time) and \$2,500 (part-time) for active Church members who have demonstrated motivation for learning, **regardless of gender identity**. NB: due to the Maxfield Fund's large endowment and, therefore, historically abundant scholarship funds for female students, the Ferko Fund has not needed to provide scholarships for females.

## Maxfield Endowment Scholarship Fund

The Maxfield Endowment Scholarship Fund is designated to provide scholarships for **female** Church members who actively participate in Church life of up to \$6,000 (full-time) and \$3,000 (part-time) who have demonstrated motivation for learning.

*Please note: Undergraduate full-time status is 12 or more credits per grading period and graduate full-time status is 9 or more credits per grading period. Undergraduate part-time status is less than 12 credits per grading period and graduate part-time status is less than 9 credits per grading period. If you have questions or concerns about your status, please contact the Committee.*

## Scholarship Awards

A scholarship award is for a specific academic year and not a guarantee for future years; award recipients must re-apply for each year of support and demonstrate continued eligibility. **(Scholarship awards are based on availability of funds, so award amounts may change from year to year.)**

- If sufficient funds to make awards for all applicants are not available, then the Committee will prioritize undergraduate applicants over graduate school, professional, vocational, or continuing education applicants
- The Committee will consider graduate, professional, vocational, or continuing education applicants for awards if they are (i) attending divinity school or (ii) studying topics related to human services, education, or nursing
- Professional certification or continuing education will be awarded up to half of the part-time amount for one year.

## Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

### Eligibility Requirements:

- A. The applicant/student must be a member of Beneficent Church and must have been actively involved in the Church for at least one (1) year prior to filing the application. The involvement may include (but is not limited to): teaching and/or assisting in Christian Education, Youth Group, or Church Council; ushering for worship service; singing in the Church choir; or working in a Church-sponsored community service project (e.g., Better Lives Rhode Island meal site or Y'all Come Community Lunch).
- B. Scholarships must be used to attend an accredited, not-for-profit, post-secondary college or university, or an accredited vocational or technical school.
- C. An applicant/student already receiving a Beneficent Church scholarship may re-apply for scholarship support if the applicant/student is continuing studies the next academic year and meets all eligibility requirements. The applicant/student **must maintain a GPA of 2.0 or higher in each semester (or other term of the academic year)** to qualify for a scholarship in the following semester or term. There is a lifetime cap of scholarship support equal to the cost of seven (7) full-time years of study at the institution the applicant/student is attending.
- D. Any applicant/student who receives a full-time scholarship from the Church and drops below full-time status must submit an explanation of his/her change in status to the Committee, in writing and as soon as practicable, to remain eligible for future scholarship opportunities.
- E. Any scholarship recipient who withdraws from school must immediately notify the Committee in writing. Any scholarship recipient who fails to notify the Committee of a withdrawal may be required to repay scholarship funds. In addition, a scholarship recipient who fails to notify the Committee of a withdrawal may be deemed ineligible for future scholarships.
- F. All decisions of the Committee are final and may not be appealed.
- G. Applicants/students are *strongly encouraged* to be actively involved in Church during school vacation times (if they return home). Scholarships will be announced during worship services, unless there are special circumstances.

# Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

## **If you are applying for an initial scholarship, please submit:**

1. Completed and signed Beneficent Church Scholarship Application (Applicant Information and Group Involvement Forms) (pages 4 and 5 of this document)
2. Most recent official high school or college transcript
3. One letter of recommendation from a teacher/professor
4. Typed essay (250-300 words) introducing yourself to the Committee and the Church congregation. The essay should include why your involvement in the life of Beneficent Church has been personally meaningful to you, and how this scholarship will help you realize your educational and career goals. (Portions of your essay may be shared during the worship service on Scholarship Sunday.)

## **If you are applying to renew an existing scholarship, please submit:**

1. Completed and signed Beneficent Church Scholarship Application (Applicant Information and Group Involvement Forms) (pages 4 and 5 of this document)
2. Most recent official college transcript
3. Typed essay (250-300 words) that updates your educational progress and shares your continued involvement in Beneficent Church. (Portions of your essay will be shared during the worship service on Scholarship Sunday.)

**All application materials must be submitted no later than April 20, 2021.  
Scholarship awards remain subject to availability of funds.**

## **Important Dates**

- April 20, 2021                      Application due date
- May 18, 2021                        Scholarship recipients notified
- June 6, 2021                        Scholarship Sunday worship service with Beneficent Church  
**(All scholarship recipients must attend)**
- September 1, 2021                Scholarship checks will be mailed by this date\*

*\*Before the Committee mails scholarship checks, scholarship recipients must have provided the following information:*

- *Course registration document*
- *A copy of the billing statement to be paid*
- *A final copy of the official high school or college transcript that includes grades for all coursework completed in the preceding semester or term*



# Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

## APPLICANT INFORMATION FORM

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

Gender Identification: \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronouns: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Number and Street Apt City/State/Zip

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home (with area code) Cell (with area code)

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Beneficent Church Membership (Month/Year): \_\_\_\_\_

**Scholarship awards are based on availability of funds, so award amounts may change from year to year.**

### EDUCATIONAL PLAN

Do you expect to attend school full-time or part-time during the next term?

(circle one): Full-Time Part-Time

*Please note: Undergraduate full-time status is 12 or more credits per grading period and graduate full-time status is 9 or more credits per grading period. Undergraduate part-time status is less than 12 credits per grading period and graduate part-time status is less than 9 credits per grading period. If you have questions or concerns about your status, please contact the Committee.*

What accredited not-for-profit post-secondary college or university, OR accredited vocational, professional, or technical school, will you attend?

### APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Completed and signed Scholarship Application	
Typed student introduction or progress essay	
Most recent transcript	
Letter of recommendation ( <i>required for new applicants only</i> )	
Completed Group Involvement Form(s) signed by Committee Chair(s)/Church Leader(s)	

Applicant Signature/Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

# Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

## GROUP INVOLVEMENT FORM

Beneficent Church scholarships are provided to Church members who have a demonstrated motivation for learning and have had an active commitment to the Church for at least one year.

As part of the Scholarship Application, the student/applicant must provide a completed form for each Church-based activity they have participated in. Each form should be completed and signed by the appropriate Committee Chair or Church Leader, and all forms should be included in the student's/applicant's scholarship application packet by the due date.

Scholarship Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Group or Committee Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Scholarship Applicant Level of Participation (*circle one*):

Weekly

Monthly

Occasionally

Comments:

Signature of Committee Chair/Church Leader: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Committee Chair/Church Leader (*please print*): \_\_\_\_\_