Guidelines

HIGGINS SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Higgins Fund was established in the will of William F. Higgins in 1947 and instituted at his death in 1957. Entities that were part of the stipulations in the will no longer exist. The goal of these revised guidelines is to honor the spirit and the intentions of the will. Documents that were studied and honored include: the will, dated December 16, 1947; the “Report of the Special Committee to Study the Higgins Scholarship Fund,” dated March 13, 1958; and the “Higgins Scholarship Program,” dated October 7, 1966.

Scholarships will be awarded based on the balance in the fund as of March 31 of the given year. The principle of the Higgins Fund ($289,624) will not be invaded. Only interest on the fund will be used for scholarships.

Use of Higgins Funds:

- 80% of the income from the Fund may be used for scholarships with preference given to students from the Presbyterian Church (USA) under the care of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry of Chicago Presbytery who apply. Others may be considered if funds are available and other reasons present themselves.
- 10% of the income from the Fund may be used for scholarships for international students of any denomination at McCormick Theological Seminary who apply.
- Up to 10% of the income may be used for overhead related directly to the Higgins Fund.

Criteria for granting scholarships:

1. Awards will be made on the basis of potential for ministry, ecclesiastical connection, plan of study, and financial need.
2. Priority is given to full or half-time students under the care of the Chicago Presbytery who are in seminary or in a doctoral program in a ministry related field.
3. The minimum scholarship will be $2,000 for an academic year and the maximum $5,000. Awards may be made for a second year if an application is filed.
4. A person can receive a maximum of two Higgins Scholarships.
5. Awards are available after the completion of one year of seminary or other graduate study.
6. The deadline for applications is March 31 of the given year. Awards will be announced by June 1. The recipient’s seminary will be issued a check by the beginning of the academic year.
7. The Higgins Committee may consult with the Commission on Preparation for Ministry

Higgins Scholarship Committee members will be elected for a three year term which will be renewable one time. After a year off the Higgins committee, persons may be elected again. The Committee will report twice a year to the Presbytery Coordinating Commission.

Any changes in these guidelines must be approved by the Presbytery Coordinating Commission. [Edited guidelines respectfully updated per Higgins Scholarship Committee Minutes of 5-12-2016 and submitted by Higgins Scholarship Committee moderator, Grayson Van Camp on 2-17-2017.]
Higgins Scholarship Committee membership for 2017-2018

Grayson Van Camp, Chair – Class of 2016
Jefferson Caldeira – Class of 2016
Matt Helms – Class of 2018
Arthur Hyrams – Class of 2017
Christine Wenderoth – Class of 2017