

**Mission Travel Fund
First Mennonite Church
Lincoln, Nebraska**

Purpose

The First Mennonite Church Mission Travel Fund provides financial support to assist members and attendees to engage in mission and service work and to make fraternal visits to mission and service workers. Through the fund it is our intention to:

- demonstrate congregational commitment to mission and service work
- encourage members to consider both short and long-term mission and service assignments through Mennonite Church related agencies
- foster personal connections with mission and service workers
- financially support mission travel of members

Eligibility

Any active member or attendee of First Mennonite Church may apply for Mission Travel assistance. If funds are limited, priority will be given to youth, college students, and young adults since they may have limited funds for mission travel and since such an experience may play a critical role in shaping their life choices.

Qualifying Experiences

- Mission Travel funds may be granted to meet expenses related to assignments with Mennonite related programs including, but not limited to Mennonite Mission Network, Mennonite Central Committee, Mennonite Disaster Service, and Christian Peacemaker Teams. Service may be at international ministry locations or at locations within the United States.
- Fraternal visits to overseas Mennonite mission and service workers are also eligible.
- Support of participation in work that is not related to the Mennonite Church may be considered.
- Experiences within the United States must be at least five days in length.
- Assignments longer than 2 years will not be supported through the Mission Travel Fund.
- Youth group mission and service trips are eligible for support.
- Because travel broadens cultural awareness and may influence students to consider mission and service work, grants may be made to support student travel that does not include mission or service related elements. To be eligible for support, travel should be international or domestic and provide a cross-cultural experience.

Application

A written letter of application should be submitted at least two months before the scheduled start of the mission travel. The following information should be included:

- Purpose of proposed mission travel
- Dates of departure and return
- Individuals or organizations with which applicant will serve or visit
- Total anticipated costs and plan for meeting them
- Brief description of what the applicant expects to accomplish and how the applicant hopes to learn or grow

Level of Support

Funds will be granted on a case-by-case basis. Consideration will be given to the total cost of the assignment or experience, the share of the cost the individual intends to assume, and other available resources.

Funding Source

The Mission Travel Fund will be established and maintained through designated gifts to a restricted fund.

Administration

The Mission Travel Fund will be administered by the Nurture Commission. Consultation with the Outreach Commission is recommended.

Reporting

Individuals and groups who receive support from the Mission Travel Fund will report to the congregation on their experiences. The Nurture Commission will help arrange this reporting.

September 27, 2007

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