



Beneficent Church Scholarship Application

Academic Year 2025 – 2026 - ***DUE DATE: April 30, 2025***

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.

Endowment Scholarship Funds

Beneficent Church has four endowments that are used for scholarships: Capron Fund, Chapin Fund, Ferko Fund, and Maxfield Fund. These endowments are designated to provide scholarships for Church members who actively participate in Church life and have demonstrated motivation for learning. The maximum award amount is \$9,500 for full-time students or \$4,750 for part-time students.

Please note: Undergraduate full-time status is 12 or more credits and graduate full-time status is 9 or more credits. Undergraduate part-time status is less than 12 credits and graduate part-time is less than 9 credits. If you have 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.

Eligibility Requirements:

- A. The applicant/student must be a member of Beneficent Church and must demonstrate active involvement or willingness to do so. 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).
- 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.

If this is your first time applying for a Beneficent Church 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. If you became a member of Beneficent Church within the past 12 months, your essay should include how you envision being active in the Church. (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. 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 30, 2025.
Scholarship awards remain subject to availability of funds.**

Important Dates

- Wednesday, April 30, 2025 Application due date.
- Monday, May 19, 2025 Scholarship recipients notified.
- Scholarship Sunday TBD Recognition at worship service at Beneficent Church.
(All scholarship recipients are encouraged to attend.)
- Monday, September 1, 2025 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*

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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? Full-Time Part-Time
(circle one)

Please note: Undergraduate full-time status is 12 or more credits and graduate full-time status is 9 or more credits. Undergraduate part-time status is less than 12 credits and graduate part-time is less than 9 credits. If you have 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: _____

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.

Please note: If you became a member of Beneficent Church within the past 12 months, do not complete this form unless you are involved in Church life other than attending worship.

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*): _____

Today's Date: _____