

SCHOLARSHIPS AND MINISTERIAL EDUCATION FUNDS COMMITTEE

Official Report

The Scholarships and Ministerial Education Funds Committee oversees financial awards “to further the educational development of (a) persons who are preparing for the Baptist ministry and (b) emerging leaders of all ages. (Constitution, Article VII, Section D, The Committee on Scholarships and Ministerial Education Funds.)

Eligible Virginia Baptist students may receive assistance through:

- BGAV Academy Scholarships financing education at one of the BGAV-partnering academies;
- BGAV College Scholarships providing aid for undergraduate education;
- BGAV Ministerial Education Funds which support undergraduate or graduate education in preparation for vocational ministry; or,
- BGAV Nontraditional Ministry Education Scholarships that allow individuals to capitalize on opportunities to secure training and continuing education for work in the local church.

The Scholarships and Ministerial Education Funds Committee of the Baptist General Association of Virginia awarded 146 college scholarships, ministerial education funds, and nontraditional scholarships totaling \$186,962.00 to students for the 2016-2017 academic year. (This count does not include scholarships for students attending BGAV related academies that will be announced in the fall, nor additional nontraditional applications in the fall award cycle.) These recipients represent 96 BGAV churches from 34 district associations, attending 49 institutions of higher education.

Since the inception of the Scholarships and Ministerial Education Funds in 2008, a total of \$1,493,599.90 has been awarded. In addition, the Educational Endowment Fund has grown to \$845,737.37 (as of September 2, 2016). This endowment will continue to provide opportunities for future leaders in Virginia Baptist churches.

Additional responsibilities of the Committee include:

- Review of policies and current guidelines;
- Ongoing discussion of futures and priorities in the support of emerging leaders;
- Careful audit of our fiduciary responsibility with respect to the purposes and terms of particular endowed resources;
- Tactical planning with respect to award levels and number of awards when the number of applications is increasing, as well as costs for education;
- Analysis of patterns in complete and incomplete applications, schools attending, and awards per partner institutions;
- Planning and evaluation of the orientation for ministerial scholarship recipients;
- Assessment of mentoring relationships and post-graduation service requirements for ministerial award recipients;
- Review of application procedures and forms, and providing programming updates for online applications;
- Audit of scholarship recipient compliance with the terms of the award;

- Review of financial and statistical input from the Support Ministries Team; and,
- Dealing with exceptional circumstances in the lives of scholarship recipients.

We wish to offer our deepest appreciation:

- To those who have contributed to the endowed resources of the BGAV Scholarships and Ministerial Education Funds.
- For the essential, often indispensable, and unfailingly supportive contributions of the staff of the Baptist General Association of Virginia.
- To Virginia Baptists who intentionally provide for the training and education of present and future leaders of our BGAV churches.

Todd Combee, Chair

Joan M. Bloomer

Robert Bloxom

Caroline Davidson

Alvin Edwards

Ed Fisher

Pam Gordon

Eleanor Green

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