

POLICIES FOR JOSEPH AND NELLIE VAITULIS SCHOLARSHIP
ADMINISTERED BY HARVEST CHURCH, NEW HAMPTON, IOWA
Revised policies, 2018

The Joseph and Nellie Vaitulis scholarship was established through a special gift from Aldona Vaitulis in memory of her parents. During a nationwide farm crisis, she felt the call to help the families of rural and farming families through a scholarship administered by a local church. She chose Harvest Church in New Hampton, Iowa to oversee the funds, select recipients and disburse the scholarships to those chosen.

With the changing times, Harvest Church has recognized the need to revise and update the policies for the Vaitulis scholarship.

THE FUNDS

The funds for the Vaitulis Scholarship are held by Harvest Church. They are administered by those appointed by the church. Major decisions about the funds are to be made through the decision-making processes of the church, with the congregation as the final decision-making body.

The general policy dealing with the funds shall be:

Money generated by the original gift shall normally be the source of scholarships, but if the earnings of the original gift do not provide enough to fund the program, the scholarships shall continue to be given in lesser amounts even if this means using some of the original funds. The goal is to keep the scholarship program in action as long as possible.

CHOOSING RECIPIENTS AND AMOUNTS

The congregation has delegated the task of choosing recipients of the scholarship to the Christian Education Board of Harvest Church. Their decisions shall not be subject to change by other entities at Harvest Church.

Normally, the CE Board is to choose two recipients per year, with the scholarships being renewable by semester for four years of college. If a recipient becomes ineligible or does not seek to renew their scholarship in a given year, the CE Board is empowered to choose another recipient for that open slot.

The number of scholarships given in a particular year shall be set by the CE Board, but may not exceed eight total recipients (new and continuing) at any given time.

The highest amount of the scholarships shall be \$250 per semester

The amount of the scholarship to be given each semester shall be determined by the CE Board in consultation with those administering the investment of the funds and may vary because of the number of recipients and the availability of funds

QUALIFICATIONS FOR RECEIVING AN INITIAL SCHOLARSHIP

The CE Board will use the following criteria in choosing recipients for the Vaitulis Scholarship:

a. First preference will be given to active participants at Harvest Church. Leadership, service and active participation in the life of the congregation will be particularly important. Youth who are active in the Harvest Church youth program, but active participants in another congregation for other purposes will be considered next after active Harvest Church youth.

Defining “active participant” is acknowledged to be difficult, as the personalities, spiritual gifts and available time vary widely from youth to youth. The CE Board will look at such things as worship attendance, Sunday School attendance, youth group attendance and participation in the overall life of the church through such things as VBS, Kids Own Worship, Lead the Cause, Dare to Share, youth outreaches, the youth worship team, the church’s Sunday morning worship team, church outreaches (such as Trunk or Treat, caroling, movie nights, etc.).

b. Additional preference will be given to students whose parents are actively and primarily engaged in farming

c. Other factors that may be considered include community service, extra-curricular activities, field of study and GPA

QUALIFICATIONS FOR CONTINUING TO RECEIVE THE SCHOLARSHIP

Students are eligible to receive the scholarship for a total of eight semesters (four school years). The scholarship is for two semesters per year, and does not include Summer or other special terms.

At the time of the award of the scholarship, the recipient is expected to write a letter of thanks to Harvest Church for helping to finance the scholarship. Please include in this letter a little information about what classes and activities you are involved in, church and/or Christian group activities and how school is going. After the first year, students may continue to receive the scholarship by writing a thank you letter to Harvest Church, which will be given to the CE Board no later than June 30th.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) to continue to receive the scholarship. The CE Board will need verification by January 15th for the first semester GPA, and June 15th for the second semester GPA

If the cumulative GPA falls below the 2.5 mark, the student will be given a one-semester grace period to bring their grades up to the mark. The scholarship will not be paid during that grace period semester, but the student remains eligible for continuation of the scholarship if the cumulative GPA is brought up to the 2.5 mark. If that is not met at the end of the grace period, eligibility for the scholarship will end.

Failure to submit the thank-you letter and/or GPA confirmation by the deadline will end the student's eligibility for continuation of the scholarship

FILLING VACANT POSITIONS

If a student becomes ineligible for continuing to receive the scholarship by failing to submit the thank you, falling below the GPA requirement for two semesters or by leaving school, the CE Board may choose to grant a scholarship to fill the empty slot, as long as the total number of scholarships stays at or below eight at any given time.

If a scholarship is granted in place of a previous recipient who is not longer eligible:

The new recipient will receive the same four-year continuation as any beginning recipient of the scholarship. This may limit the number of available new scholarships in future years.

POLICY FOR PAYMENT OF THE SCHOLARSHIP

The scholarship will be paid directly to the school in which the student is enrolled.