

## Mennonite Education Agency Fund for Peoplehood Education

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### **Policies**

- A. The fund is operated for the purpose and according to the purposes and procedures that follow.
- B. MEA carries administrative responsibility for the fund through its staff and a three-person Reference Committee appointed by MEA. The term of office of committee members is three years (with staggered terms). One member of the committee will be a member of the MEA Board of Directors and the other two appointed at large. The chair of the committee will be appointed by MEA for a three-year term but not exceeding the chair's term as a committee member.
- C. The Reference Committee
  - provides general oversight counsel for the fund,
  - reviews project proposals,
  - determines priorities and allocations of funds,
  - proposes MEA guidelines for the use of funds, and
  - offers counsel regarding replenishing the fund.
- D. The Executive Director of MEA (or her/his designated staff person) will serve as staff for the Reference Committee.
- E. Projects supported by the fund may be administered by MEA, other institutions or individuals who submit proposals for approved activities.
- F. The assets of the fund will be maintained and administered as a fund of MEA in accordance with the investment guidelines of its Investment Committee. Contributions to the fund will be used to establish a term endowment to support the objectives of the fund. Initial contributions to the fund (principal and earnings) will be expended over a 20-year period (1995-2015).
- G. This policy is subject to amendment by MEA.

### **Purposes**

The Fund for Peoplehood Education supports initiatives that promote the distinctive features of church-sponsored education and encourage strong ties between Mennonite Church USA and its schools. The fund achieves this purpose by supporting:

- Interpretive projects that advocate church-sponsored schools;
- Innovative ways of calling and orienting gifted members to the teaching ministry;
- Orientation programs for teachers, administrators and trustees; and
- Action-oriented research that enhances church-school relationships.

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Promise to strengthen church-school ties and interpret the distinctive features of Mennonite-Anabaptist education; and
- Cultivate educational leadership among younger members of Mennonite Church USA.

### **Possible activities**

A variety of formats may be used to achieve the objectives of the fund. These include workshops, seminars, mentorships, and lectureships. Examples of possible activities include:

- Gatherings of potential faculty involved in graduate studies;
- Workshops for new faculty;
- Seminars for administrators and trustees;
- Retreats and promotional meetings for church leaders and parents;
- Events for college-age scholars with leadership potential;
- Colloquia for Mennonite students attending non-Mennonite-Anabaptist colleges and universities
- Studies of crucial factors in church-school relationships.

### **Proposal submission and review**

- A. Proposals for projects may be submitted by MEA staff, MEA schools, other institutions and individuals.
- B. Proposals, typically not exceeding three typed pages, should:
  - describe the proposed activities,
  - address how they fulfill the objectives of the fund,
  - include a budget and
  - include a brief description of the qualifications of the supervisor of the project.
- C. Proposals should be submitted to the Executive Director of MEA (or her/his designated staff person) by September 30<sup>i</sup> (and March 30, if funds remain for payout in that fiscal year) for projects which will commence in the following 24 months.
- D. The Executive Director of MEA (or her/his designated staff person) will forward all proposals to the Reference Committee, which will recommend worthy proposals for funding to the MEA Board of Directors. Decisions regarding the disposition of proposals will generally be made within sixty days after proposals are forwarded.
- E. Entities which receive grants will within one year of doing so submit a report to the Executive Director of MEA (or her/his designated staff person) regarding the use of these funds. These reports will be assessed by Reference Committee and used in its ongoing work.
- F. These operating guidelines are subject to adoption and amendment by MEA.

*04-0430, detail added 05-0829; updated 06-0821 and 06-1020.*

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<sup>i</sup> October 16 for 2012