

Central Advent Christian Mission Society Richard Fell Memorial Scholarship/Loan Program

Adopted April 4, 2003

PURPOSE

In order to assist individuals to prepare for ministry vocations and to fill positions within the Advent Christian Denomination, the Central Advent Christian Mission Society (CACMS) offers scholarship/loans for attendance at an accredited institution of higher learning or to Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies (BICS). At the undergraduate level, qualifying majors are pastoral studies, missionary studies, Christian education, and youth ministry. Graduate level programs that lead to masters and doctors degrees in Christian ministry related areas also qualify. Financial assistance is given in the form of a loan which may be paid back by serving in an Advent Christian church or mission field or in cash payments. (See details in the "REPAYMENT" section on page 4.)

COMMITMENT OF APPLICANT

Individuals desiring to apply for a scholarship/loan should sense a call from God to ministry and be willing to make a commitment to serve the Advent Christian Denomination. This "call and commitment to serve" will be evaluated by the Scholarship/Loan Committee (Committee) through the application form, the written testimony of the individual, letters of recommendation and an interview. Individuals should affirm that they are Advent Christian in faith and doctrine and adhere to the Advent Christian Declaration of Principles. Applicants must be members of an Advent Christian church in the Central Region or be children of active Advent Christian missionaries.

Individuals pursuing an undergraduate degree should major in one of the following programs'

PASTORAL STUDIES - studies that qualify a pastor for ordination and service in an Advent Christian Church.

MISSIONARY STUDIES - studies in an area of mission service needed by the Department of World Mission of the Advent Christian General Conference. The Committee will consult with the Director of World Missions in order to determine if the student is preparing for a vocation in which the World Missions Department is recruiting missionaries. If the student desires to be a missionary but the major does not meet the needs of the denomination, the student does not qualify for a scholarship/loan. Additionally, if the student decides to affiliate with another denomination after completion of the program, the scholarship/loan must be paid back to the CACMS. (See "REPAYMENT" section on page 4.)

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION / YOUTH MINISTRY - studies with a major in Christian education and/or youth ministry. Some colleges offer a Bachelor in Christian Education or Religious Education (BCE/BRE) with an emphasis in youth ministry.

Individuals planning graduate study should request approval from the CACMS Scholarship/Loan Committee for their intended program of study before completing the application procedure for a scholarship/loan.

PROCEDURE FOR SECURING A SCHOLARSHIP/LOAN

The completed application form along with a narrative describing the individuals' current situation, goals and future plans, and the reasons for applying for the loan should be sent to the Committee. Individuals applying for a scholarship/loan for graduate study should also include a detailed description of their planned program.

Undergraduates should submit letters of recommendation from their pastor and from another adult who knows them well and can confirm their desire and potential. (Suggested persons to write the recommendations are conference or regional leaders, Sunday School teachers, and community/school leaders.) Individuals planning graduate study should submit letters of recommendation from a leader (e.g. Elder or Board Chair) within their church (if currently *pastoring* a church) or their pastor and an Advent Christian conference or regional leader (e.g. Superintendent or President). All letters of recommendation should be sent directly to the Committee by the persons making the recommendation. After all documents have been received and evaluated, the Committee will make arrangements for an interview.

SPECIALIZED EXPERIENCES REQUIRED

Undergraduate students are required to be involved in field experiences related to their major during their college years. The field experience offered by the institution they are attending and summer job opportunities related to the students' major may be acceptable as field experiences. Students should be actively involved in their home church (or a local church if it is not practical to attend their home church) throughout their college experience. Students should consult with the Committee to determine the quantity of field experiences appropriate for their program and get pre-approval from the Committee before embarking on any field experience to make sure that the activity is applicable.

Undergraduate students are also required to complete an internship related to their major in an Advent Christian Church or mission program. If needed, the Committee will work with the student and the CACMS Executive Director to investigate such possibilities. Internships may occur during the junior or senior college year or during the summer before the senior year and should be at least eight weeks in length.

Undergraduate students, prior to the beginning of their senior year, must complete three specifically Advent Christian courses. If these courses are not completed by the designated time, the seventh semester of the scholarship/loan will not be awarded. The topics are *Advent Christian Theology*, *Advent Christian History* and *Eschatology or Revelation*. These may be independent study courses approved by the Committee. Choices include a TEMPE course from Berkshire Christian College, a reading/reporting program designed by the Committee, supplemental reading to a college course that the student is taking, or an approved course from BICS. Additional costs outside the regular college classroom will be paid for from the scholarship/loan fund.

Graduate students may be required to participate in field experiences and internships depending on their program and previous experience. The Committee will work with students to determine the quantity and appropriateness of such experiences. At the discretion of the Committee, graduate students may also be required to complete the Advent Christian courses listed in the previous paragraph.

Course 1: Advent Christian Theology
(Choose one of the following)

TB04 Advent Christian Theology - TEMPE course

The Advent Christian denomination was born in the midst of intense expectation that the end of this age was near and that Christ would soon come to raise the dead, judge the world, and establish his kingdom. The student who studies these distinctives will do a comprehensive analysis of eschatology (the doctrine of last things), both personal and general. This course emphasizes basic principles for understanding what Scripture means.

TB05 Eschatology- TEMPE course

Christians share an intense expectation that the end of the age is near and that Christ will come to raise the dead, judge the world, and establish his kingdom. In this course the student will do a comprehensive analysis of the second coming of Christ and the related events which bring this age to a close and introduce the eternal kingdom of God (an alternative version of TB04).

Midnight & Morning by Clyde Hewitt - student will read this book and present a written report to the Committee.

Devotion & Development by Clyde Hewitt or Responsibility & Response by Clyde Hewitt - student will read one of these books and present a written report to the Committee.

College work & reading- The student may study HIS 363, *American Church History*, (offered at Toccoa Falls College as well as other colleges), and read the book *Midnight & Morning* by Clyde Hewitt. (Student might request that the book be part of the optional class reading.) The student will present a written report to the Committee on *Midnight & Morning*.

Advent Christian History & Church Polity- a TEMPE course

Course 3: Eschatology or Revelation

(Choose one of the following)

Eschatology- a TEMPE course

Prior study- If the student has attended BICS, verification of completion of one of the following courses will be accepted: Theology 107, *Survey of Biblical Theology* or Bible 106, *Survey of the New Testament*.

Read one - *What Does the Future Hold?* by Clarence Hewitt; *God's Prophetic Calendar*, by M. H. Griswold, editor; *The Fire That Consumes* by Edward W. Fudge. The student will present a written report to the Committee.

Additional reference books: Upon acceptance for a scholarship/loan, each student will be given a set of *Advent Christian books* for use as resource and reference tools: *Resurrection Hope*, *God's Prophetic Calendar*, *The Gift From Above*, and *Advent Christian Catechism*.

GRANTING SCHOLARSHIP/LOANS

Maximum Scholarship/Loan per year- individuals may be granted up to \$1,000 per semester or a total of \$2,000 per year for full-time enrollment. For determining the amount of the scholarship/loan, the Committee shall consider the various documents of the application, loans and scholarships from other sources and the individuals' stated need. Scholarship/loan amount will be prorated if students are enrolled less than full-time.

Number of years a scholarship/loan can be granted - 4 years or 8 semesters (full-time equivalent). The loan may be used for undergraduate or graduate level studies.

Qualifying institutions- Berkshire Institute for Christian Studies and accredited Bible and Christian colleges and seminaries, *when the institution offers a major in the vocation of choice of the student*. The loan is also available for those students who transfer from other institutions to an institution which offers a church vocation course of study.

Disbursement of funds - The Committee will evaluate the application and determine if individuals are qualified for a scholarship/loan and the amount of the scholarship/loan to be granted. Upon approval the CACMS Treasurer will send a check to the institution in the name of the student and the institution. No funds will be given directly to students.

Student responsibility to receive continuing semester loans- It is the responsibility of the individual to contact the Committee for each semester that funds are needed. Funds will not be sent automatically.

Undergraduate students are required to maintain a GPA of at least 2.0 for the first two years and a 3.0 after the fourth semester. Graduate students are required to maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 throughout their program. When requesting a scholarship/loan renewal after the first semester, students should send a letter to the Committee reaffirming the qualifying major and the commitment to the Advent Christian Denomination. A grade report or college transcript of the most recent semester must also be sent to the Committee along with the above reaffirmation letter.

REPAYMENT

Beginning six months after graduation or termination at the college, individuals must begin one of the following repayment plans:

Individuals who serve in a full-time position or at least 20 hours per week in a bi-vocational position in an Advent Christian church may repay the loan at the rate of one year of service for each \$2000 awarded.

Individuals who serve less than 20 hours per week will receive a pro-rated reduction based on the number of hours worked.

Individuals who do not complete the course of study, by either withdrawing from college or changing majors, must repay the loan beginning six months after withdrawal or graduation from college. The payment amount and length of time schedule will be determined by the Committee.

After graduation, the CACMS Treasurer will send to the individual a statement of the total amount of the loan and the due date for each year. Statements shall be sent annually until the loan is repaid either by ministering in an Advent Christian church or mission field or by cash payments.

The CACMS Board of Directors will determine the procedure for collecting delinquent payments.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENTS

- Keep the Committee aware of current address and commitment to the qualifying major or program.
- Respond to correspondence.
- Undergraduates (and graduate students if required by the Committee) will complete the three specialized courses before the senior (final) year.
- Undergraduates will maintain a 2.0 GPA the first two years and a 3.0 after the fourth semester.
- Graduate students will maintain a 3.0 GPA.
- Present a lifestyle of Christian character by upholding the standards, rules and regulations of the institution.
- Be involved in their home church, or a local church if it is not possible to attend the home church, throughout their college experience.

Agreement by Applicant
for Central Advent Christian Mission Society
Richard Fell Memorial Scholarship/Loan Award

I have read all of the terms established by the Central Advent Christian Mission Society regarding the Richard Fell Scholarship/Loan Program.

I certify that I am entering a degree program at:

Name of College: _____ Located at: _____

Choose one of the following:

♣ My undergraduate major will be:

Pastoral Studies _____ Mission Studies _____

Christian Education / Youth Ministry ____

☐ My graduate program will be (must be pre-approved by the Committee):

I profess to be an Advent Christian in faith and doctrine; I believe that God is calling me to an Advent Christian church vocation; and I understand that in accepting this loan/scholarship I am committed to serving the Advent Christian Denomination in the area that God calls me. Further, I understand that I must be actively involved in my home church or a local church if it is not practical to attend my home church because of distance, throughout my college experience.

If an undergraduate, I understand that I am required to do field experiences during the college year, and an internship during my junior/senior college year or during the summer. I further understand that I am to complete three specifically Advent Christian courses before the beginning of my senior year. If these courses are not completed, I understand that the seventh semester loan will not be administered to me.

If a graduate student, I understand that my graduate program must be pre-approved by the Scholarship/Loan Committee and that I may be required to complete three specifically Advent Christian courses prior to the completion of my graduate program.

I understand that beginning six months after graduation or termination at the college; I must begin one of the repayment plans outlined by the Scholarship/Loan Committee.

I understand that in withdrawing from college or changing my major, I must repay the loan beginning six months after leaving college.

I understand that if I enter a full-time position or serve at least 20 hours per week in a bi-vocational position in an Advent Christian church or mission field I may repay the loan with one year of service for each \$2000 awarded.

I understand that in serving less than 20 hours per week in an Advent Christian church or mission field I will receive a pro-rated reduction in the loan repayment based on the number of hours served.

I understand that this application must be received by the dates set by the Scholarship/Loan Committee.

Signature of Applicant

Date _____

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