



# FEE FEE BAPTIST CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Revised June 2022  
Fee Fee Baptist Church  
Scholarship Committee



## **FEE FEE BAPTIST CHURCH'S HERITAGE OF EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT**

Fee Fee Baptist Church is pleased to present three scholarship opportunities for church members seeking graduate, post graduate, or seminary degrees: the General Scholarship Program, the Virginia Graham Scholarship Program, and the Barnes Seminary Scholarship Program. These scholarship programs have been made available through the past and continuing generosity of church members.

Following is a description of each program, its history, and eligibility criteria.

### **General Scholarship Program**

The General Scholarship Fund of Fee Fee Baptist Church, as it was originally called, is an outgrowth of the church's long-term interests in Christian Education. In 1977, an anonymous gift of \$6,000 provided the initial financial basis for the creation of a scholarship fund. On November 16, 1977, an Education Committee was created to draw up guidelines for the use of these funds. As approved by the congregation and amended from time to time, these guidelines have remained as guiding principles for the formal administration of the initial and subsequent financial gifts.

The General Scholarship Fund is an endowment fund with a spending policy designed to provide yearly distributions while preserving and growing the endowment. The fund is invested in a mix of broadly diversified long-term investments including stock and bond funds and cash equivalents. The allocation goal is long-term growth with limited potential negative movement. Investment strategies are recommended by the Stewardship Committee and approved by the congregation.

The General Scholarship Program does not favor any specific educational pursuit over another and is available to those students meeting the eligibility guidelines covered in this document. Scholarships awarded through this program are intended to be more of an expression of interest and support by the church than a serious contribution to the expenses of a college education. The scholarships awarded through this program will be limited to no more than \$1,000.00 per academic year.

Over the years the fund has enjoyed substantial growth, with an endowment balance of nearly \$141,000 in 2021. Since its inception, over \$219,000 has been distributed to scholarship recipients.



## **Virginia Graham Scholarship Program**

Virginia Graham was a long time and devoted church member. A provision in her will specified that a portion of her estate was to be bequeathed to Fee Fee Baptist Church with the provision that the funds would be used for educational scholarships. Further, these scholarships were to be awarded to students who planned a career in either education or religious leadership.

Virginia Graham's will also clearly stated that, should any student receive scholarship awards through this program but fail to achieve a degree, all funds given to that student were to be repaid by the student to the fund and made available to others.

As a result and in accordance with her wishes, the Virginia Graham Scholarship Program was founded in 2001. The endowment fund totaled nearly \$95,000 in 2021 and over \$66,000 in scholarships has been awarded since its inception. The investment strategies and responsibilities for the endowment mirror those for the General Scholarship Fund.

The scholarships awarded through this program will be limited to no more than \$1,000.00 per academic year. It is acceptable for a student to receive a General Scholarship and also a scholarship through the Graham Scholarship Program, assuming all criteria have been met.

## **Barnes Scholarship Program**

The Barnes Scholarship Program was established specifically to provide educational financial assistance for Baptist seminary-bound students.

The earned interest from the endowment is distributed at the Pastor's sole discretion.

## **SELECTION AND ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR THE GENERAL AND VIRGINIA GRAHAM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS**

Selection criteria is the same for both programs except as noted:

1. Applicants will be members of Fee Fee Baptist Church except as follows:
  - a. Where an applicant was a member of Fee Fee but changed membership to a church in the area where the applicant is attending college.
  - b. Other unique circumstances considered by the Scholarship Committee and presented to the church for vote.



2. Applicants will have applied to and been accepted at an accredited college or university. Greater financial consideration is given for students attending a Baptist institution.
  - a. Graham Scholarship applicants must be planning careers in education or religious leadership.
3. Both full time students (defined as 12 or more semester hours for undergraduate and 6 hours for graduate degree pursuits) and part time students are eligible. Full time students receive greater financial consideration.
4. The level of Christian service and activity in the life of Fee Fee Baptist Church or the church they are currently attending is a key factor in the amount of scholarship funds awarded. Those students with a higher activity and service level will receive greater financial consideration.

## PROCESS

In the spring of each year, applications are made available to students desiring to apply for one or both of the scholarships. General communications are made through normal church media so that all church members are aware of the program guidelines and timelines. **Applications received after the posted cut off date will not be considered.** Similarly, applications which are **incomplete or containing erroneous information will not be considered.**

The group responsible for screening all applications and making scholarship award recommendations to the church is the Scholarship Committee. The church votes on scholarship recommendations each year at a business meeting, typically in July.

Scholarships are awarded for a period of one year and are paid directly to the institution on a semester or term basis. Second semester/term payments will be contingent on continued enrollment.

Scholarships are not loans and repayment of financial assistance received is not expected. However, recipients are encouraged to contribute to the scholarship fund at the appropriate time in their life and according to their financial ability so that future participants will have the same opportunity.

Graham scholarship recipients who do not complete their degree program are asked to return all funds received through scholarship receipts to the endowment for future students' use.