

The Guldin Trust

The will of Ethel Smith Guldin specified that the money given to St. Paul's Reformed Church in Amityville be placed in a trust fund and "the income whereof shall be applied toward the education of deserving persons in the church congregation as may be decided by the church authorities."

The church established the Guldin Trust Committee which shall consist of five (5) members, each serving a five (5) year term. New members of the committee will be nominated by the Consistory, with input from the committee, and elected by the church congregation at the Annual Meeting. If a vacancy occurs, interim appointments will be submitted by the Guldin Trust Committee to the Consistory for their approval. Members may be reelected after at least one year off.

The committee will select from among its members a chairperson and a secretary/treasurer. No committee member and/or his or her immediate family will be eligible to receive an Education grant during his/her term.

Each member of the Guldin Trust Committee will receive a copy of the Guldin Trust Guidelines. The committee will meet to review all applications prior to the scheduled interviews. The committee is required to report to the congregation at the Annual Meeting. An external audit committee appointed by the Consistory will be charged with the responsibility of auditing the books of the Guldin Trust Committee.

As specified by the trust, only the interest on the accumulated funds may be used. The maximum number and amount allocated for Educational Grants shall be determined each year by the committee and the funds available. Any unspent funds will be reinvested for later disbursements.

At the end of each award period all applications shall be destroyed with the exception of one copy from each applicant. One (1) copy of each application along with the Guldin Trust materials shall be kept in a locking cabinet and/or other secure area in the church. Each application shall be kept on file for at least ten (10) years.

(Adopted 5/2010)

Applying for an Educational Grant

To be eligible to receive funds from an Educational Grant, the applicant must be a full-time or part-time student in the current fall semester and enrolled as a full-time or part-time student in the upcoming spring semester. Grants will be awarded once a year in January. All completed applications for Educational Grants must be submitted by November 15. Applications received after November 15 will not be considered.

The committee will examine all applications and determine the eligibility of each applicant. Interviews for all applicants will be scheduled between November 16th and December 31st. If unable to attend, the applicant may arrange an interview at some other time convenient to the committee members between November 16 and early January.

If an applicant fails to attend an interview and does not reschedule, the committee will assume that the applicant is no longer interested in receiving the Guldin Trust Grant.

Money for the Educational Grants will be sent directly to the institution for tuition purposes only. An exception will be made if awarding of grant money will cause loss of aid from other financial sources. An applicant who receives reimbursement from other sources will not receive more than the total cost of their tuition. Proof of tuition cost, payments made, and other monies received will be required prior to awarding of this Education Grant. A grant will be given only after successful completion of the first semester. Only one (1) Educational Grant can be awarded during any twelve (12) month period. This time period is defined as January 1 until December 31 of the same year.

Applicants are limited to five (5) Educational Grants. The grants need not be consecutive. An applicant who is denied for any reason may reapply the following November. If the applicant completes the interview process and is awarded the Educational Grant the next time the applicant applies he/she advance one attempt. If the applicant completes the interview process and is denied the Educational Grant for any reason the applicant may reapply the next school year with no penalties in attempts.

(Adopted 5/2010)

Applying for Special Grants

Special Grants may be awarded for:

- a. Christian education for adults or children
- b. Church camp
- c. Non-credit adult education
- d. Non-program adult continuing education

Reimbursement for courses or programs lasting one semester or less than one semester will be made directly to the applicant in January coinciding with the awarding of the educational grants. Reimbursement depends upon successful completion of the program, presentation of the paid receipt, and presentation of a short written or oral summary of the experience.

The fund may reimburse up to 100% of any qualified individual course or program costing less than \$200.00. For an individual course costing more than \$200.00, the fund will reimburse up to one-half (1/2) the total cost up to a maximum award equal to one-half (1/2) of **the average** Educational Grant awarded that year. For example, if the Educational Grant awarded that year is \$1000.00 the Special Grant amount for a course costing more than \$200.00 would not exceed \$500.00.

Applications for Special Grants will be accepted at any time throughout the year. Only one Special Grant application may be submitted per year per applicant and may not be combined with an Educational Grant.

The guidelines do not prohibit committee members or their families from receiving Special Grants. Applicants that have received or may wish to apply for the maximum of five (5) Educational Grants are not prohibited from receiving future Special Grants.

(Adopted 5/2010)

Definition of “Education”

The Guldin Trust was established to assist with the cost of education. St. Paul’s United Church of Christ has defined education as including many types of higher education.

EDUCATIONAL GRANTS are available for:

- a. Undergraduate credits through a college or university
- b. Graduate level credits through a college or university
- c. Trade school
- d. Nurses’ training
- e. Business school
- f. Technical school
- g. Post-high school college preparatory school
- h. Post-high school military school

In addition, **SPECIAL GRANTS** may be available for:

- a. Christian education for adults or children
- b. Church camp
- c. Non-credit adult education
- d. Non-program adult continuing education

The amount to be set aside annually for Special Grants will be determined in January by the Committee and will be awarded based on availability of funds, qualification of the applicant and the cost of the program in which he or she is participating.

(Adopted 5/2010)

Definition of “Active Service”

To be eligible for a Guldin Trust Grant (Educational or Special), an applicant must demonstrate his or her regular participation in the life of the church. A qualified applicant:

- a. Attends worship services on a regular basis – no less than 50% of regular Sunday morning services, special services, and organizational gatherings. Please sign the attendance registers.
- b. Communes on a regular basis. Please return your green communion envelopes to document your attendance.
- c. Contributes financially to the church.
- d. Participates in church worship – acolyte, usher, liturgist, choir, special music, etc.
- e. Attends or teaches a Church School Class, Bible School, or Bible Study Group.
- f. Serves on church committees
- g. Participates in mission projects of the church – homeless shelter, food pantry, etc.
- h. Participates in annual fund raisers – turkey supper, peach festivals, etc.
- i. Is an active member of Youth Club, Youth Group, Young Adult group, Ladies Aid, Men’s Fellowship, church choir, or other organizations within the Church.

Applicants are expected to have participated in at least six (6) church activities in addition to their regular Sunday morning Church School and worship attendance.

Applicants applying for grants while they are already away at school must demonstrate continuing involvement with St. Paul’s whenever possible and

must show evidence of Christian growth and service while away. This requirement may be met by:

- a. Attending and participating at St. Paul's during vacations
- b. Communion as often as possible
- c. Attending worship regularly at a Christian Church near the applicant's school
- d. Participating in a Bible Study Group or other Christian growth experience
- e. Participating in Christian service or mission projects at home or while away at school.

Applicants must reapply each year for a grant and must maintain their eligibility in order to qualify. There are no guaranteed renewals of Guldin Trust Grants.

(Adopted 5/2010)

Definition of “Deserving Persons”

In determining eligibility to receive a grant, the Committee may consider the applicant’s academic record, special talents, extracurricular activities, and desire. Mrs. Guldin’s will further stipulates that the funds be used for the education of “deserving persons in the church congregation as may be decided by the church authorities.” To this end, the committee has established the following guidelines, adherence to which will be expected of those seeking financial assistance from the Trust.

There is no age limit for recipients, however an applicant must:

1. Be a member of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ with at least three (3) years of active service.
2. If re-applying for subsequent grants, the applicant must maintain his/her eligibility. Renewals of grants are not guaranteed.
3. If the applicant, who met the aforementioned criteria in number one (1), is currently at an institution of higher learning that is a significant distance from St. Paul’s United Church of Christ it expected the applicant will actively participate in another church or religious group that is available to them (See Definition of “Active Service” for details.)

(Adopted 5/2010)

