

# **Administration and Distribution of Christian Education Funds**

Approved Resolution to Support Christian Education  
St. Stephanus Voters' July 22, 2018

*Whereas,* Saint Stephanus Lutheran Church has supported Christian Education since its inception; and

*Whereas,* SSLC continues in its desire to support Christian Education for the foreseeable future; and

*Whereas,* The future of the primary venue for this support, Central Lutheran School, is uncertain; therefore let it be

*Whereas,* 2.2. The congregation shall at all times maintain in its midst the Christian Ministry or the Pastoral Office. This congregation shall always conduct or make available a Christian Day School and other Christian Educational agencies.

*Resolved,* That Saint Stephanus Lutheran Church will continue to support Christian Education; and let it also be

*Resolved,* That support shall be both financial, and spiritual; and let finally be

*Resolved,* That funds received or set aside for Christian Education shall be made available for Member families who seek to provide such education for their children and meet the criteria set forth in the policies of the Congregation.

## I. Background

A. St. Stephanus has a tradition of providing for and supporting Christian education that goes back over 125 years. To honor that historical legacy and ensure its continued relevance we offer the following information and policies.

B. There are three primary sources of financial support for members seeking tuition assistance for Christian education

### 1. Christian Education Budget

a) Funds are budgeted annually to offset tuition expenses for each member child attending a K-8 Lutheran institution or as approved by the Christian Education Committee

b) Supervised by the Chair of Parish Education

c) Administered by the Christian Education Committee under policies outlined below

### 2. Tuition Grant Fund

a) Funds are budgeted annually as finances permit to provide families with additional tuition assistance where needed.

b) These funds are available for any level of Christian Education and require an application process.

c) Supervised by the Chair of Parish Education

d) Administered by the Tuition Grant Committee under prescribed policies.

### 3. St. Stephanus Endowment Funds

a) These are independent of the annual budget and are the result of earning from Endowment investment accounts.

- b) Supervised by the PPC 2nd Vice President
- c) Administered under policies defined in the by laws of St. Stephanus Constitution

## II. Christian Education Budget Funds Policy

- A. The following guidelines have been developed for the purposes of administering funds received or set aside for Christian Education. Historically, these funds were dedicated for Central Lutheran School.
  - 1. The policy will be administered by a committee made up of the pastor, the DCE or chair of Youth and Family Ministry, and the chair of Parish Education.
  - 2. For the purposes of this policy Christian Education is defined as K-8th grade Lutheran Day Schools. Exceptions may be considered by the Christian Education Committee.
- B. Supporting Christian Education within the congregation is seen as a joint responsibility between the church, the family and the school.
  - 1. Expectations of the church
    - a) Annually budget a per pupil stipend to support Christian Education
      - (1) based on analysis of potential student population
      - (2) review of various tuition changes
      - (3) realistic forecast of finances
      - (4) determine an appropriate payment schedule
    - b) Make families aware of financial resources available and expectations

c) Assist families with questions and concerns related to Christian Education

## 2. Expectations of the family

a) Families must be members for one year prior to receiving tuition assistance

b) Families will maintain an active membership within the church including involvement in the greater church community beyond attendance.

c) Annually meet with the pastor to discuss the joint responsibility in Christian Education and what it means to be an active member.

## 3. Expectations of the School

a) Confirm the enrollment of children of St. Stephanus members

b) Keep the church informed regarding changes in enrollment or issues related to St. Stephanus families.