

APPENDIX 2

REGULATIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL AID OF STUDENTS

As amended by Synod 1992, Acts Article 50,
by Synod 1994, Acts Article 56,
and according to Article 42 of the Acts of Synod West Albany 2000

(Re.: Article 18 of the Church Order)

Article 1

Financial aid will be provided only to students who intend to become a minister in one of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia or in one of their sister churches. It will be provided in accordance with these Regulations and the RULES FOR THE SUPPORT OF NEEDY STUDENTS.

Article 2

Financial aid will be provided only for studies at a college or seminary of one of the sister churches mentioned in Article 1.

Article 3

Financial aid will be provided in the form of interest-free loans for the purpose of meeting study costs and cost-of-living expenses of the student. Any additional aid for a married student will be provided on the same basis. The church to which the eligible student belongs when he begins his studies has secondary responsibility to provide support, after the student's family and before the federation of churches. The deputies, when assessing the churches, must take into account the financial commitments which the local churches have assumed with respect to the support of needy students.

Article 4

Students proposing to enrol at one of the approved colleges must comply with the pre-requisites of that college before financial aid will be made available. A student who needs to complete additional studies after having obtained a Bachelor of Arts degree at an Australian university, and before being admitted to a college, may be financially supported by deputies for that time of his study.

Article 5

In normal circumstances financial aid will be given only for the duration of a normal-length study course at the college concerned.

Article 6

Payments will be made via the student's parents. In the event that it is considered more expedient to have the payments made directly to the student, a written request to that effect may be made to deputies.

Article 7

To assist deputies in determining the student's need for financial aid, they may request information concerning his financial situation from the consistory of the church of which he is a member. Similar information may be sought about the student's parents. For this purpose an Application Form For Financial Assistance will be supplied.

Article 8

The parents of the student, or - in the case of a student being paid directly - the student himself, shall annually submit a budget of expenditure. Any proposed increase in expenditure must be sufficiently substantiated.

Article 9

The student must keep deputies informed about his study progress. Deputies may also make their own inquiries at the college or seminary. If the student fails to make satisfactory progress and desires to continue with his studies he may request a continuation of financial aid. This request will be given consideration only if the college senate supports his case. After a second failure approval to continue financial aid can be given only if the failure was caused by circumstances beyond the student's control (sickness, accident etc.)

Article 10

The maximum amount of financial aid will be determined by deputies, if necessary after consultation with the college or seminary. Deputies will take into account the income of the student (including that of his wife if he is married), and the support from his parents or from any other source.

If a student is not eligible for government support for tertiary education, then financial aid will be given by deputies only in exceptional circumstances.

Article 11

Circumstances which will tend to raise the level of financial aid needed will be considered by deputies on their merit.

Article 12

The financial aid may include an allowance, as determined by deputies, for the purchase of books. This allowance is for the purpose of starting the student's library (dictionaries, commentaries, etc.). Proof of purchase of these books must be supplied by the student.

Article 13

A student whose financial position changes due to either an increase or decrease in income or of assets must inform deputies accordingly, as this may affect the extent of financial aid received by him from the churches.

Article 14

A student who desires to end his studies in the case he no longer wants to become a minister, or for any other reason, must inform deputies accordingly as soon as possible.

Article 15

The financial aid will end at the time when the student, after having completed his studies and ecclesiastical examinations, becomes the responsibility of a church. If the student does not receive a call from a church the financial aid will end five weeks after his preparatory examination.

Article 16

Subject to the provisions of Article 18, repayment of the provided loans will be waived once the student has been ordained as minister of one of the churches mentioned in Article 1, at the rate of two years of financial aid for every year of ministry, in the same order.

Article 17

The provided loans or any outstanding amounts thereof must be repaid and are instantly claimable when:

- a. the student terminates his studies.
- b. the student decides not to become a minister.
- c. the student, after having completed his course of studies, does not within two years make himself available for call by one of the churches mentioned in Article 1.
- d. the student does not accept a call extended to him or, after having accepted a call, withdraws and does not accept another call.
- e. the student ceases to be a member of the sister church either by his withdrawal

or by excommunication.

- f. the student, having become a minister, withdraws from or is dismissed by the church or sister church concerned.

In the case of financial hardship when immediate repayment in full would be too difficult, deputies may consider a request for repayment by instalments.

Article 18

If it becomes clear that too high a level of financial aid was given in the past, the total sum of excess money must immediately be repaid in full.

Article 19

The obligation to repay loans may be waived in case of sickness, death or in other exceptional circumstances.

Article 20

In any cases for which these Regulations do not make provision deputies have the authority to decide.

Article 21

Deputies must report to the next synod concerning any special actions which were taken.

Article 22

A copy of these REGULATIONS and of the RULES FOR THE FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF NEEDY STUDENTS will be supplied to the student and to all who are directly involved in the financial aid to needy students ad Article 18 of the Church Order.

Article 23

In the case of disputes the home church's classis shall adjudicate.

RULES FOR THE FUND FOR THE SUPPORT OF NEEDY STUDENTS

(Re.: Article 18 of the Church Order)

1. Students who apply for financial aid for their Theological study, on the ground of Article 18 of the Church Order, may be supported by the Fund for the Support of Needy Students (FSNS).
2. The FSNS provides financial aid for the following expenses:
 - a. Tuition fees
 - b. Study books
 - c. Living expenses
 - d. Clothing
 - e. Pocket money
 - f. Fares
 - g. Health insurance
 - h. Incidental expenses
 - i. Other expenses as detailed
3. To become eligible for support from FSNS the student must:
 - a. be a confessing member of one of The Free Reformed Churches of Australia;
 - b. be accepted by one of the recognised theological colleges;
 - c. undertake full-time studies;
 - d. have made satisfactory progress in the study for an Australian Bachelor of Arts degree and/or in the previous study year of the college.
4. The FSNS distinguishes two classes of students:
 - a. Students who are financially dependent on their parents for their studies at a theological college.
 - b. Independent student who have their own income and/or are supported by their wife; and all students who were married prior to the beginning of their theological study.
5. In the case of a 'dependent' student the income of his parents must be assessed annually by way of a 'means test', before the student can be supported by FSNS.
6. In the case of an 'independent' student his income and/or that of his wife must be assessed annually by way of a 'means test', before the student can be supported by FSNS.
7. The basis for applying the 'means test' referred to in Articles 5 and 6 will be the student's gross income together with reasonable assets.
8. The forms for the 'means test' must be duly completed and signed.
9. An agreement between deputies and the parents and/or the student - as the case may be -, must be completed and signed before financial aid can be given by FSNS.