

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VERNON CHOIR SCHOLARSHIP

Statement of Purpose

God calls the Church into being. We are adopted into God's family through the true Son of God, Jesus Christ. In gratitude for God's grace, we worship. In fact, worship is our primary purpose. On the Lord's Day, we come together from our many separate pursuits to acknowledge that we are one people in Christ. We praise God, offer our confession, receive forgiveness, listen to God's Word, and respond to God's calling.

Music, especially vocal music, has always played an integral role in corporate worship. Paul writes to the church in Ephesus, "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord" (Ephesians 5:19). Paul's direction is for the whole congregation, not a part. The choir's role is not to replace congregational singing, but rather to instruct, encourage, and lead the people for worship. We believe that our choir has a vital ministry to equip the congregation for the life of faith.

To further support that ministry, the session of the First Presbyterian Church establishes a scholarship program for young people serving in the choir. With the scholarship, the choir becomes an intentional ministry for the development of future church leaders and church musicians. Adult choir members will have an opportunity to mentor younger members. Younger members can offer their energy and talents for the benefit of the body to the glory of God.

Administration

The Choir Scholarship will be administered by the session through a committee which shall include the Choir Director, the Organist, the Director of Christian Education, and an active elder. Participants need the annual approval of session to be enrolled in the scholarship program.

The session shall set an annual budget amount available for Choir Scholarships. The number of participants will be dependent on the money available and qualifications of the applicants.

Qualifications

Any student will be considered for enrollment if he or she:

- is in the 8th grade through college.
- has been recommended by church staff, elder or member.
- has the approval of his or her parents or guardian.

A student will be enrolled on an annual basis if he or she:

- has a satisfactory interview with the Choir Scholarship committee.
- has the approval of session.

Although enrollment is not based on church membership, we encourage students to give first consideration to opportunities to serve within their home churches. We also encourage other congregations to develop their own young people in church leadership and musicianship.

Choir Expectations

Students will earn the scholarship on a month by month basis. Students must attend at least 75% of practice and Sunday morning worship each month. Students must be available for worship during the Christmas and Easter seasons.

Under extreme circumstances, a participant can be removed from the scholarship rolls before the annual evaluation for poor attendance or disrespectful behavior. Removing a participant from the scholarship rolls before the annual evaluation must be an act of the session with a recommendation from the Choir Scholarship Committee.

Scholarship Amounts

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|------------------------|----------------|
| 8 th grade | \$30 per month |
| 9 th grade | \$35 |
| 10 th grade | \$40 |
| 11 th grade | \$45 |
| 12 th grade | \$50 |
| College Freshman | \$55 |
| College Sophomore | \$60 |

Use of Scholarship Funds

Scholarship funds can be used to pay for college education expenses, church camps and conferences, mission trips, or choir camp. Money will be paid annually for college expenses or on a request basis for any other expense. Students should allow at least two weeks for requests. Proof of expenses must be presented to the FPC Choir Director.

Any unused funds will be assumed by First Presbyterian Church of Vernon, Texas after the participant's four years of college or after one year of no contact. The responsibility to keep in contact with FPC lies with the scholarship participant.