

First Hamilton CRC Tuition Assistance Policy

Revised: April 7, 2015 (Version 6)

Ratified by Diaconate April 8, 2015

Preamble

The Christian Reformed Church, of which First Hamilton is a member church, is committed to Christian schools. The deacons of First Hamilton, along with the denomination, affirm that Christian school education is a communal as well as a parental responsibility. As a church, therefore, we will provide congregational support so that our church's children can be educated in a way that acknowledges the lordship of Jesus Christ in all subject areas. (Drawn from the CRC's [Position on Christian Education](#).)

When our First Hamilton community is functioning well, Christian education will not be seen as a luxury, affordable only by the well-provisioned, but rather as a covenantal embrace: parents, church, and school coming together to raise children in the Lord.

Tuition assistance may be seen by the First Hamilton community as a tangible out-working of the baptismal covenant.

Policy

In order to effectively encourage the use of local Christian day schools, the deacons of First Hamilton CRC will:

1. Establish a tuition assistance fund within the diaconate budget.
2. Establish a tuition assistance program available only for active First Hamilton member families who choose to have their children attend a local OACS-affiliated Christian day school with a commitment to the Reformed faith. The three qualifying schools are Providence Christian School (Dundas), Calvin Christian School (Hamilton), and Hamilton District Christian High School (Hamilton). Tuition assistance shall be available for all levels of tuition-eligible schooling, including senior kindergarten, Sonshine preschool (Providence CS), and Jubilee school (Calvin CS).
3. Appoint a Christian Education Treasurer (usually a deacon on the Stewardship subcommittee) who will be the main point of contact for tuition assistance and provide promotion and leadership in the area of Christian Education tuition assistance. The Christian Education Treasurer will also be the liaison between First Hamilton and the individual Christian schools.
4. Delegate administration of the tuition assistance program to a committee of 3-4 deacons, appointed by the diaconate annually.
5. Provide all member families, without prejudice, information on tuition assistance.
6. Evenly disburse available funding in "units" to eligible applicant families. One family's request for assistance at one school shall be considered one "unit". Should one family be eligible for assistance at two schools (i.e. elementary and high school), their need shall be considered two complete "units" for equal disbursement.
7. Maintain confidentiality. Applicant family names should be made known only to the administrating committee; the deacon treasurer; and the family's pastorate deacon.
8. Deduct minimal administrative costs from available tuition assistance funds for the purpose of promoting the fund. Normally this should not exceed 5% of the available fund.

9. Direct tuition assistance funds directly to the qualifying school, not to applicant families.
10. Report back to diaconate annually, in writing, on all fund applications and transactions.