

Opening  
doors for  
men and women  
in the  
American Baptist Churches of  
Michigan  
to become  
professional  
church  
leaders



THE  
MICHIGAN BAPTIST  
SCHOLARSHIP  
SOCIETY

**MBSS**  
SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM



**MBSS**

Michigan Baptist Scholarship Society  
American Baptist Churches of Michigan  
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Loving God and leading strong.  
**Together.**

“I honestly believe God is calling me into a career in the ministry, but how can I afford the high cost of a college and seminary education to prepare for it?”



“We need the best men and women available to become pastors for our churches as our present professional church leaders retire. We need pastors of youth, Christian education, and music ministries. We also

need to develop excellent missionaries, chaplains, seminary professors, and other professional staff. We are not only seeking to fill vacancies; but are expanding our leadership so individual churches and our entire American Baptist denomination can grow!”

Bridging these concerns is the challenge of the Michigan Baptist Scholarship Society. Created by the American Baptist Churches of Michigan in 1966 and accountable to it, MBSS serves all of us by awarding scholarships to deserving students in our Region who are preparing to become professional church leaders.

ABC-MI elects the MBSS Board of Trustees to establish and administer specific scholarship policy within our Region’s mandate, seek funding, and provide financial help to qualified members of ABC-MI churches who show strong evidence of God’s call to professional church vocation. Without support from interested churches and individuals, MBSS cannot provide this help.

During the past decade, over \$125,000 in MBSS scholarships has been granted (with over \$80,000 for seminary students). The amount awarded to each applicant can vary from year to year depending on several factors such as:

- \* How many people applied and qualified?
- \* What was the extent of each applicant’s financial need?
- \* How much income was received by MBSS in the past year and is available for funding scholarships?

Full-time MBSS students in seminary can receive up to approximately \$2,000 and full-time college students are eligible for up to \$1,000 (with preferential funding for ABC schools). The amount of support increases as one moves from freshman toward the senior year. Students who are carrying at least a half-time load may be eligible for partial support. MBSS does not fund doctoral programs.

An individual may feel uncertain about God’s call into a professional church leader career and seeks professional career counseling. MBSS



may be able to supplement the funding our denomination provides for career counseling. We also encourage students in non-ABC seminaries to take an ABC polity course or

engage in other activities designed to foster a closer link between them and our denomination. MBSS may offer up to \$300 for these options. MBSS recipients can also apply for up to \$300 annually for approved special out-of-school activities, such as short-term mission trips or special conferences. Again, the extent to which this help can be provided (if at all) depends on the current resources MBSS has available and the number of applicants and their situation.

For MBSS support to begin in the fall semester, completed applications are due June 30. For the second semester, they are due October 15. More information about MBSS eligibility requirements, application procedures, and funding levels is available upon request.

## Sources of Support

**Church Mission Budgets** are the largest and most consistent sources of MBSS support. Does your church participate in regular giving to MBSS? If not, please prayerfully consider doing so.

**Individual Gifts** to MBSS are always appreciated and acknowledged.

**Living Memorials** are a lasting way to honor a departed loved one. The families of those so honored will be notified of the gift (dollar amount kept confidential) and the donor will receive a receipt. MBSS memorial envelopes are available in quantity for your church or elsewhere.

**A Will** ensures your wishes will be followed. Remembering MBSS is an excellent way of having the spiritual satisfaction of knowing God’s Word and His work will live on through your will.

**Other Estate Planning Options** An American Baptist Foundation representative can provide a host of financial tools and options that can provide you with a lifetime retirement income, substantial tax savings, and benefit qualified students through the MBSS. To contact the American Baptist Foundation, go to [www.abcofgiving.org](http://www.abcofgiving.org) or call 800.222.3872.

*Please help by urging your church to provide at least one dollar per member per year to help members of American Baptist Churches in Michigan who are preparing to become professional church leaders!*

*If you would like someone from MBSS to speak to your church, mission board, or to you personally, please let us know. Your prayers and financial support are sincerely appreciated.*