

Future Anabaptist Leaders Fund

The Leadership Board of MSMC believes it is imperative that we train, encourage and support future Anabaptist leaders if our churches, passion ministries, conference and denomination is going to thrive in the years to come. To help support our conference, our churches, our passion ministries walk alongside with and equip future leaders, we would like to create a fund which individuals and churches can contribute to which will support interns and other individuals who are passionate about exploring Anabaptist/Mennonite ministry in the front range.

Thanks to the last eighteen months, the conference's budget and assets look better than they have in a long time. Our grant income has exceeded expectations thanks to a PPP loan (a second pending) and an employee retention credit which the finance committee has worked so diligently on. Both the Finance Committee and the Leadership Board believe now is the time to amend the 2021 budget and set aside \$6000 to start the Future Anabaptist Leaders Fund. We will be seeking delegate approval at this year's annual assembly to do so.

We know that \$6000 will not go very far. To help, we will be setting aside this money which will only be released as contributions come in. We will be soliciting donations from individuals and churches and the conference will be matching dollar for dollar the first \$6000 we receive. We also will be exploring fundraisers like selling intern artwork and an online silent auction to help grow this fund.

Once the fund is established, funding will be dispersed based on the number of applicants and churches/ministries interested in welcoming interns. Churches/passion ministries must also demonstrate a commitment to supporting the intern in whatever ways they can (i.e. room and board with a member of the congregation, stipend, covering supplies or books, etc.).

We really hope that we will be able to grow this fund over the next few years so that our churches, our conference and our passion ministries are able to support, equip, inspire and develop future leaders. We believe this is a necessary step in both supporting our great tradition while also opening us up to new ministries and ideas that will allow for our Mennonite faith to flourish in the Rocky Mountain region for decades to come.