

Proposal for Board-funded scholarships for attendance at General Sessions at General Assembly 2015 Portland. (Draft)

The board has expressed its desire in its reimagining governance discussions to move to a model where delegates to General Assemblies have the following attributes:

- Represent more congregations than is currently the case
- Selected through a congregational process that elects or charges delegates
- Become familiar with the business agenda
- Represent the interests of the congregation
- Agree to attend general sessions
- Report back to the congregation on what was learned and business conducted
- Have potential for leadership in the congregation and beyond
- Agree to participate in pre-GA webinars
- Represent youth and young adult communities
- Represent communities of color
- Represent communities traditionally marginalized

To reinforce this desire for a more inclusive and representative delegate pool and to make GA more accessible, the Board will seek funding to underwrite the cost of delegates attending GA.

The board envisions a pool of funds to be made available to regional staff leads in increments of 20% of total funding to each region equally. Regions will be encouraged to supplement funds where possible. The funds will be administered by regional field staff to provide scholarships for deserving leaders within the following guidelines and preferences:

- Diversity in geography within the region
- Diversity in lay leaders and clergy
- Preference to congregations who are engaged with the wider movement and are Fair Share
- Preference for youth and young adult leaders
- Preference for people of color with intersecting identities

Scholarships will be based on financial need but with the expectation the congregation and recipient will contribute financially as well.

Recipients are expected to:

- Participate in pre-GA webinars and become familiar with the business agenda
- Attend a Board-sponsored orientation at GA

- Attend all general sessions and vote
- Attend a post-GA assessment meeting/webinar
- Complete a post-GA survey
- Report learnings to their congregation and region