

Resolution Regarding the Withdrawal From the Principal of the Restricted Preschool
Scholarship Fund

WHEREAS, Stratford United Methodist Church (“SUMC”) Daycare is experiencing a decline in enrollment, partly due to necessary increases in daycare tuition rates, which are prevalent nationally, making it challenging for families to afford childcare costs; and

WHEREAS, releasing the Principal portion of the restricted "Preschool Scholarship Fund" would provide significant financial resources to offer need-based scholarships to potential enrollees, enabling them to afford preschool education; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that scholarships awarded from this fund are not restricted by the age of the child, and, instead, are available to all eligible applicants; and

WHEREAS, scholarships will be awarded with the intention to complement funds provided by the Connecticut State government; and

WHEREAS, a scholarship committee under the supervision of the Daycare Committee and the Church Council will be established to propose policies and procedures for the administration of the annual scholarships;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the scholarship committee is authorized to withdraw from the principal of the **Preschool Scholarship Fund** to fund money for the scholarships as the need arises and to establish the following policies and procedures for the administration of the annual scholarships:

- The amount of the Principal released and the number of scholarships awarded annually shall be determined by the scholarship committee, considering the applicants’ financial needs and available funds.
- An application process will be developed, outlining the documentation requirements for families applying for scholarships.
- A calendar will be established to communicate the scholarship availability, conduct application reviews, and announce annual awards, ensuring transparency and efficiency in the process.
- Criteria for awarding the scholarships will be established, considering factors such as financial need, family circumstances, and the potential impact of the scholarship on the child's education.
- A clear process for dispensing the funds to scholarship recipients will be outlined, ensuring that the funds are utilized for preschool education expenses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the scholarship committee will work to finalize the policies and procedures outlined herein and present them for approval by the Daycare Committee and the Church Council within three months after the special church conference on February 25, 2024.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon approval of the policies and procedures, the Principal portion of the restricted **Preschool Scholarship Fund** shall be released and utilized in accordance with the established guidelines to provide meaningful support to families in need.

This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage at the special church conference on February 25, 2024.