

## **Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants – 2021 Report**

Bement/Waterfield Educational Grants help young people who are active in the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts to pursue their educational goals after secondary school. Grants may be used at accredited training and technical institutions as well as for undergraduate study at 2- and 4-year accredited colleges. These awards represent an investment by the Church in its young people. The goal of the Committee is to provide some support to as many of the applicants as possible.

The Bement/Waterfield Grants are made possible in part by income from a generous bequest by the late Miss Mary Bement many years ago. In 1998, William S. Waterfield, Jr. left a bequest to the Diocese to provide additional funds for educational grants.

Beginning in 2018 our committee has seen many changes, beginning with the resignation of long-time co-chair Sally Allen. The following year Jean Ryan headed the committee on her own and did an excellent job, but felt it was too much for one person and asked committee member Kathy Glista to join her as a co-chair. Although we have lost some members, we are happy to announce that we have added two members this year that we believe will bring new perspective and skills to the group.

Our current membership includes co-chairs Kathy Glista - St. David's in Agawam & Jean Ryan - Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Catherine Goodwin - St. Matthew's in Worcester, Deacon Linda Taupier - Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield, Laura Caswell - St. Francis in Holden, Bob Glista - St. David's in Agawam, Rev. Harvey Hill - St. David's in Agawam, and Rev. Canon Joel Martinez - Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield

Students must submit a variety of forms including an application, references, a financial aid (FAFSA) report, an essay, and grades. They must also have an interview with a committee member.

During the interview we learn more than can be written on paper about their personal faith and relationship with the church, and the importance of education to them. This is a necessary and very important part of the process since the committee is aware that much of the paperwork is done by family members, and that not all students are eloquent in writing or talking. The essay and interview give us a much more complete view of the student as a person and not just a name on a list.

This past year, due to the pandemic, we had some challenges as interviews had to be conducted online for the most part. However, it also allowed us to streamline some of our processes. Going forward the committee hopes to meet once a year in the fall to discuss policy and welcome new members. In the Spring we will meet via Zoom to determine awards.

We hope to have new fillable pdf forms up soon and hopefully in English and Spanish. We also hope to encourage more students to apply that are not aware this grant exists. We ask that you help us spread the word and direct all inquires to the diocesan website

<https://www.diocesewma.org/grant-opportunities/bement-grants-bement-waterfield->

[educational-grants/](#) , or by scanning the code below and clicking on the link contained in it, or to contact a committee member for more information.

Submitted by Kathy Glista on behalf of the entire committee.

