

PROPOSAL
Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship
Steven Roth Memorial Mission Grant Program (Draft 3)

To: Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship (MHF) Board

From: Paul D. Leichty, Executive Director

Date: May 21, 2013 (Draft 1 - April 1, 2013; Draft 2 – May 16, 2013)

Re: This proposal is to consolidate existing mission funds while creating more flexible programs for their use.

Response Date: June 20 Board meeting

Background & Purpose:

MHF inherited two **mission funds** from Mennonite Medical Association (MMA):

1. Mobilization for Mission Fund (MFM)
2. Steven Roth Fund (SRF).

At the same time, MHF inherited one clear **program** for the use of those funds: Student Elective Term (SET) which used MFM funds. Since the founding of MHF, attention has been focused on making SET into scholarship program accessible to graduate students in any healthcare profession.

The original use of the SRF was to provide grants to pay the interest on the educational debts of MMA members who wanted to volunteer their services for one or more years following residency. From 2002-04, the following uses were added:

- For travel expenses for members who travel overseas for short-term medical service.
- To assist with mission outreach such as publicizing information about the SET program.
- To supplement the SET program by providing opportunities for returning SET students to attend and share their experiences at regional and national meetings.
- To assist in expenses of overseas MMA members to attend meetings in the USA.

With these added uses of the SRF involving the SET program, there has been some blurring of the distinctions as to which SET-related expenses should come from MMF and which should come from SRF.

With the founding of MHF, the Roth family affirmed the transfer of SRF to MHF control. Subsequent conversations have been held with the Roth family who expressed flexibility in how the funds are handled and openness to new usages for those funds which honor the original purposes to benefit students and international missions.

At the same time, more funding requests are coming to MHF which do not fit into the criteria for SET, yet nevertheless seem worthy and in keeping with the purposes of both of the mission funds and MHF as a whole. Therefore, this proposal aims to both streamline the administration of the funds and to provide a flexible program for their use.

Statement of Plan: This proposal has two parts, one that addresses **administration** of the mission funds and the other that addresses **usage** of those funds.

Administration: It is proposed that the Mobilization for Mission Fund and the Steven Roth Fund be joined to create one fund known simply as the Mission Fund.

Usage: Four programs are proposed for the regular usage of these funds.

- A. **Student Elective Term (SET) Scholarship Program** – This continues the program already inherited and transformed from MMA.
- B. **International Visitors Program** – A program to bring healthcare professionals from outside of North America for interaction with MHF members and the church in North America. This will normally include attendance at a Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship Annual Gathering.
- C. **International Membership Program** – MHF desires to be an international organization. In recognition of the fact that salary and wage levels in developing countries are not sufficient to make MHF membership affordable, mission funds can be used to subsidize membership plans for groups of Mennonite healthcare workers from particular countries and regions of the world. These plans would be developed separately according to the needs and desires in each situation.
- D. **Steven Roth Memorial Grant Program** – In continuing recognition of the legacy of Steven Roth, this program would accept grant proposals from any MHF member throughout the world. Proposals would address educational and/or service-oriented purposes which contribute to the missional endeavors of the member and the missional purposes of the larger church. This program is spelled out in greater detail below.

The Steven Roth Memorial Grant Program: How it would work

- A. The MHF Board, in consultation with the Community and Global Services SIG would establish an annual budget out the Mission Fund for the program. First year proposal: \$6,000 (3 persons @\$2,000)
- B. Assumptions: MHF members with sufficient means will continue to give special gifts to the MHF Mission Fund. This fund, in turn, enables members who are still in the education phase, working to pay off loans, or working in volunteer or low-income settings to receive the support of the larger MHF community for volunteer mission and service projects in which they are personally participating.
- C. The MHF Office, in consultation with the Board and Community and Global Services Special Interest Group (SIG), would establish an administrative procedure to collect proposals. Recommendation: Establish proposal deadlines every 6 months.
- D. Proposals will be reviewed first by the MHF Executive Director.
 1. Those felt to be worthy of consideration will be submitted to the Community and Global Services SIG for a decision.
 2. A summary of the grants awarded will be submitted to the Board either by email or at a meeting for final approval.
 3. Recipients will be notified and arrangements made for payment.
- E. Proposals would be judged by the following criteria:
 1. Clarity of purpose for which the funds are requested. Proposals would normally involve a specific project, one which has a specific location, task, and time frame.
 2. Extent to which the project contributes to the mission and values of Mennonite Healthcare Fellowship and the church.
 3. Extent to which the project enhances the missional mindset of the participant.

4. Extent to which the project enhances the education of the participant in the practice of his/her profession and the mission of the church.
5. Extent of participant's need for funding in order to carry out the project.

Schedule for consideration of this proposal:

- A. Draft 1 of this proposal was reviewed by the Community and Global Services SIG at the April 4 conference call meeting and by the full Board at its April 10 conference call meeting. Both groups were cautiously favorable toward the proposal. The Board asked for further feedback from the membership as a whole in order to take up the matter further at its June 20 meeting.
- B. Mid-May – Send an email to all current MHF members as well as those on a list inherited from MMA who are identified as past participants in SET or who are known to be contributors to any of the mission funds.
- C. Revision of this proposal as needed for consideration at the June 20 Board meeting.
- D. Reporting and/or solicitation of further feedback at the Board/Members breakfast meeting at the Annual Gathering on June 22.
- E. Approval of proposal is projected either in June or in the late summer.

Benefits/Costs:

- A. Benefits of this proposal
 1. Streamlines the administration of mission funds by having them all be a part of one fund rather than needing to make decisions as to what programs draw from which fund.
 2. Enhances the program of MHF by encouraging members to give to valuable mission projects.
 3. Enhances the program of MHF by encouraging members, regardless of personal income, to propose, carry out, and participate in projects that support the missional purposes of MHF.
 4. Enhances the program of MHF as members report on mission projects in Annual Gatherings, Regional Meetings, through writing articles and blog postings, etc.
 5. Continues to honor the legacy of Steven Roth and the Steven Roth Fund.
- B. Costs
 1. MHF could expect more funds expended from the Mission Fund; however, it is anticipated that this would also spur further giving.
 2. There may be some additional administrative costs, but these would largely be offset by the increased efficiency in handling both routine and unusual requests which would come anyway.

Evaluation:

- A. Board evaluation of the Steven Roth Scholarship Program after a one-year cycle of grants.
- B. It is assumed that the MHF Board would continue to monitor the use of the Mission Fund and make adjustments as needed in any of the programs that use the Fund.