Ralph W. and Mildred Waterman Neil had a long history of family commitment to the Church of the Nazarene and Northwest Nazarene College.

Ralph W. Neil was born near Durango, Colorado, in 1910. In 1914 he moved with his family to Vilonia, Arkansas, at the suggestion of Lewis T. and D. Shelby Corlett, so that the children could be educated in an educational institution planned by the Church of the Nazarene. The first year was a difficult year of adjustment, and so the Neil family decided to move to a new location. The Corlets put the family in touch with Eugene Emerson, who told them of the opportunities of farming in the Melba, Idaho, area and of the educational opportunities at Northwest Nazarene College, Academy, and Grammar School. In 1916 the family moved to Melba. Ralph’s brothers, James and Lloyd, and sister, Hazel, enrolled at NNC while Ralph enrolled in the NNC grammar school. In 1928 Ralph entered NNC to study math education. His mother, Lou Neil, died in 1929, and his father, Walter, died in 1931. Because this was the time of the Great Depression, Ralph could not continue his education at NNC. He died in 1990 in retirement as a successful business man and faithful Christian.

Mildred Waterman Neil was born near Berthold, North Dakota in 1910. In 1927 Mildred and her family moved from North Dakota to Nampa, Idaho, in order to put Mildred in the NNC Academy and College. In 1930 she graduated from the NNC Normal School and became a school teacher near Midvale, Idaho, for several years. She and Ralph met at NNC and were married in 1934. Throughout her life she was a faithful Christian businesswoman and homemaker. She served 33 years as a local missionary president, 13 years as a church treasurer, and taught Sunday School for 40 years. She died in 1980 in retirement.

Ralph and Mildred’s two children, Ralph, Jr. and Mildred Lou, both attended NNC; Ralph graduated in 1961. Two of Ralph and Mildred’s grandsons, John and David Neil, also graduated from NNC.

Throughout their lifetimes, Ralph and Mildred were faithful members of the Church of the Nazarene. This scholarship is a means of perpetuating the ideals of Christian ministry and of the Church of the Nazarene for which they worked. The Neil family desires that this scholarship for future Nazarene ministers will perpetuate the Christian principles for which they lived.

Criteria for awarding of scholarship

1. The recipients shall normally be continuing junior or senior students with a major in the Division of Philosophy and Religion who are preparing for some area of full-time Christian service in the Church of the Nazarene.

2. Nominations will be made by the Division of Philosophy and Religion or a member of the Neil family for approval by the Scholarship Committee.

3. The general requirements for full-time student status and a minimum GPA of 2.0 apply.