The Bob & Judy Bender Ministerial Scholarship

Bob and Judy both grew up in rural non-Christian homes in North Dakota. After earning teaching degrees and marrying in 1964, the Benders moved to The Dalles, Oregon, to begin teaching careers. One Sunday morning while listening to a broadcast of the worship service from the local Nazarene Church, both felt a need to begin attending. As the saying goes, “The rest is history.” In the ensuing months, the Holy Spirit began His work and led them to commit their lives to Jesus Christ. Judy became the church pianist, and Bob began working with the youth.

Over the following years as servants for Jesus they moved to Corvallis, Oregon, and then to Bend, Oregon, where they still reside. Judy has continued ministry in music and also has taught women’s Bible studies and adult Sunday school classes. Bob has been involved in many ministries and held several positions including Sunday School Superintendent (25 years), local church boards, District Advisory Board, District Young Adult Chair, NNU Board of Trustees (15 years), District Camps Board Secretary, Compassionate Ministries Chair, and adult Sunday school teacher.

Christian education and working with youth have been major goals in the Benders’ lives. They have a heart for those who serve in their churches. They established this scholarship because of their belief that leaving college as debt-free as possible will bring freedom to those who will serve as full-time pastors. In their own words, “The Lord has blessed us throughout our lives, so we desire to bless others with the resources we have been given.”

Criteria for the Award

1. Recipients are to be students who are preparing for lives of full-time service in ministry in the Church of the Nazarene.

2. Recipients are to be students with a minimum GPA of 2.5 who meet the additional criteria of the Ministerial Scholarship Fund Program.

3. Financial need shall be a consideration in the awarding of this scholarship.

4. Nominations for this award are to be made through the School of Theology and Christian Ministries and the Office of Financial Aid.

A most satisfying way to honor a loved one or friend is to invest in a life yet to be lived.
Gifts to NNU’s Endowed Scholarship Program become a “helping hand” to students as they prepare for their vocations and for lives of service to others.
For more information, contact the Office of University Advancement, NNU, 621 Holly St., Nampa, ID 83686. Phone (208) 467-8772.
Northwest Nazarene University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

Northwest Nazarene University