Northwest Nazarene University was a focal point in the lives of Ellis and Velma Cox long before they ever attended the college (now university). Hearing of the experiences from both of their brothers who had attended NNC, visiting with a college traveling group, plus Ellis' call to the ministry heightened their interest. After serving time in the Navy during WWII the time was right to take advantage of the NNC experience, made possible with the GI benefits.

All four of their children enrolled and were blessed by the experience and benefits that NNU afforded them, and four of their grandsons also attended the university and are now in graduate studies or are sharing their ministries in Alaska, Taiwan and Venezuela.

The ministry of Ellis and Velma included pastoring six congregations on the Northwest District. During this time Ellis served as district treasurer for twenty-two years and was district secretary for four terms. Velma's ministry was with the children and youth in the local church and in the district camping program. Their ministry also led them to be a part of the deferred giving program of the general church. They spent three years on the Mount Vernon educational zone where Ellis served as a representative and then five years in the headquarters office in Kansas City.

During their 35 years of active ministry, primarily on the NNU region, one of their goals was to encourage the youth in the churches they served to attend the university. They always felt a deep sense of loss when some young student had to settle on a secular college because of a lack of funds. They count it a privilege to see these funds directed to help worthy students fulfill their dreams through Christian education at NNU.

Criteria for the Award

Recipients are to be students who are preparing for lives of service in ministry.

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

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

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