

TERMS OF REFERENCE
E.S.T.A.R.L.

(a) The Eastern Star Training Awards for Religious Leadership (ESTARL) program is a permanent project of the Grand Chapter, Order of the Eastern Star of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island.

(b) ESTARL Awards are available to students from this Jurisdiction for the religious ministry, religious leadership, religious education or church music, of a religious denomination recognized by the Canadian Council of Churches and attending a school, college, or university recognized by that denomination. Students must be in their second or higher year of full time theology study and who have not received more than one previous award. Partial awards are available to part time students enrolled in those programs as outlined, provided proof of completion of equivalent course requirements for first year of full time study is submitted by the University. Part time students may receive up to the equivalent of two full time awards.

(b 1) Those persons who have held the position of Church Musician for at least the past two years and are pursuing studies in Church Music under private tutoring from a qualified instructor recognized by the Royal Canadian College of Organists will also be considered for an ESTARL Award. Students in this category will be required to submit in writing a letter duly signed by the instructor stating that the applicant is currently taking this instruction. Students shall also include a letter from the Church where they are currently employed as a Church Musician.

(c) To be eligible for an award a completed application form must be received by the ESTARL Committee on or before October 31. The application may be submitted by a Chapter or an eligible student.

(d) If at the time of final awards selection the number of eligible applicants exceeds the number of available awards, the committee shall respect the following order of preference:

- 1 - Applications sponsored by a subordinate Chapter,
- 2 - Applicants with a home address within the Grand Jurisdiction of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island,
- 3 - Applicants with a home address where the Order of the Eastern Star is not recognized.

(e) The ESTARL Committee is authorized to make awards to the limit of the money received in the ESTARL account of the Grand Chapter in the business year of our Grand Chapter. To raise the amount of a part time bursary will be at the discretion of the committee and will be proportional to the number of courses being taken within the school calendar year.

(f) Payment of awards shall be made by cheque through the Grand Secretary not later than December 15th and be payable jointly to the applicant and the school, college or university named which they are attending.

(g) The ESTARL Committee has the final authority in making awards to qualifying applicants within the framework of these Terms of Reference.