

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

El Redentor Presbyterian Church greets you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. When Elder Julia Tapia turned 85 years of age, she had a vision to create a Ministerial Scholarship to defray the cost of books for Latina women with limited financial resources who were pursuing their theological studies in a seminary.

The funding for this Ministerial Scholarship will come from the different offerings received from Julia Tapia herself (for as long as she lives), her family members (who will keep the vision alive), El Redentor Presbyterian Church, other Presbyterian churches, the Presbyterian Women from different Presbyteries, the Theological Seminaries, the National Hispanic Office, and/or the different Synods and Hispanic Councils within the Presbyterian Church (USA). We seek the cooperation of various governing bodies, educational institutions, Presbyterian congregations, and denominational agencies in order to be able to identify and nominate Hispanic women in seminaries who qualify for this scholarship. If you know of someone, please submit her name and telephone number, or simply give her the attached application.

These designated offerings will be maintained in a separate budget item, so that 100% of your gifts are used exclusively as stipulated in the Ministerial Scholarship. The Session at El Redentor Presbyterian Church will be the custodian of the funds for these special offerings. Therefore, you can make a check payable to the order of: EL REDENTOR, and in the memo below write: JULIA TAPIA MINISTERIAL SCHOLARSHIP. *[Your gift to El Redentor Presbyterian Church is tax-deductible, according to the law. El Redentor Presbyterian Church is a 501(c)(3), non-profit religious organization. It is duly incorporated in the state of Florida under its English name: El Redentor Presbyterian Church of Central Florida, Inc.]*

Sincerely,

The Rev. Carmelo Mercado, DMin
Senior Pastor & Moderator of Session

Lourdes Cruz-Alberty, DDS
Moderator, Presbyterian Women at El Redentor

*Yes! I want to support the vision of the Julia Tapia Ministerial Scholarship.
Please receive MY OFFERING (which may be tax-deductible) of:*

\$_____.

Thank you for your support!

Julia Tapia Ministerial Scholarship

*Approved by the Session of El Redentor Presbyterian Church on 09/18/08.
Revised on 03/26/09.*

Rationale:

God is calling to ministry men and women of every race, nationality, and social backgrounds. Throughout the years we have seen many who desiring to attend theological seminaries are not able to do so due to the financial burden. Of this group, Hispanic women (especially single mothers) are the most affected. This scholarship intends to ease the financial burden on Hispanic women with limited financial resources. The woman selected will receive financial help for her books during her graduate studies at a theological seminary.

Description:

Funding for this scholarship may be collected during the month of April (the birth month of the ruling elder and deacon, Julia Tapia) or another month in the year in the local church through donations and offerings from her family, friends, and members of the Presbyterian Church (USA). Her family will complete a pledge card annually for this fund.

The funding will be in the care of the Session of the local church, who may appoint a committee for this purpose. A member of her family will be an *ex-officio* member of the committee (the purpose is not to supervise the committee but to maintain the vision alive of Elder Julia Tapia). The Session also may consider representatives from the Synod.

Likewise, the Session or the assigned committee will create an application to spell out all the necessary parameters in order to be able to evaluate the candidate and to make known the existence of this scholarship to all the Hispanic Presbyterian Churches (USA) in the United States and Puerto Rico.

The Session and/or committee will be responsible to award the scholarships after meeting and discussing about the different candidates. This scholarship is designed to give priority to single mothers, then married women with or without children, and finally single women without any children. The scholarship will be awarded in a special ceremony as the Session or committee sees fit and as good stewards of its resources. If within a year a candidate has not been selected, the scholarship will continue to accrue funds, and any adjustments needed in the following year will be done with the understanding that more money could be awarded for that year, or more than one seminarian could receive a scholarship, if the Session and/or committee so decides.

The candidates may submit their applications from April 1 to May 31, verifying their admission to an accredited seminary that is acceptable in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

Based upon need, the amount of the scholarship awarded will be \$250 - \$500 for books at the beginning of a semester as the candidates pursue their theological studies.

Requirements:

1. Active member in the Presbyterian Church (USA).
2. Admission to an accredited theological institution of graduate studies and a seminary acceptable to the Presbyterian Church (USA) throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.
3. Priority will be given as follows, a Female who is:
 - a. Single with one or more dependent children, or
 - b. Married with children, or
 - c. Single.
4. Limited financial resources (which will be determined by the Session or the committee).
5. Must have qualified for other scholarships and financial aid. (The purpose for this is assure that the student will have the necessary financial support during the year and to better evaluate the financial situation.)
6. Hispanic/Latina.

Application for the Julia Tapia Ministerial Scholarship

(Financial Help for the Purchase of Books for Female Seminary Students)

Date: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

Date of Birth: ____/____/____ E-Mail: _____

Gender: () Female

Occupation: _____

Nationality or Ethnic Origin: _____

LOCAL CHURCH MEMBERSHIP

Congregation's Name _____

City: _____ State: _____

Pastor: _____ Telephone: _____

Presbytery: _____ Synod: _____

Membership Date: _____

ADMISSIONS TO SEMINARY OR THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION

Seminary: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Date of Admission: _____

Academic Program (MDiv, MA, MS, MEd, ThM, DMin, PhD, etc.): _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

() Married () Single

If married, name of spouse: _____

If any children, please provide their names and ages:

_____	age _____
_____	age _____
_____	age _____
_____	age _____

COLLEGE/UNIVERSITY

Name of School: _____

Location (city/state): _____

Years attended: from: _____ to: _____

Did you graduate? () Yes () No

Bachelor's Degree in (major area of study): _____

OTHER GRADUATE WORK

Name of School: _____

Location (City/State): _____

Years attended: from: _____ to: _____

Did you graduate? () Yes () No

Master's Degree in (major area of study): _____

WORK/MILITARY HISTORY

(List current employment or most recent, starting with the most recent employment first)

Dates	Employer (Name/City/State)	Part-Time (PT) / Full Time (FT)	Job Title
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

LOCAL CHURCH SERVICE

Officer:

Minister, if applicable (Ordination date and name of the Presbytery where ordained)

Date of Ordination: _____

Presbytery: _____ Synod: _____

Elder, if applicable (Ordination date and name of the Church)

Date: _____

Church Name: _____ City/State: _____

Deacon, if applicable (Ordination date and name of Church)

Date: _____

Church Name: _____ City/State: _____

Board of Trustees, if applicable (Date of commissioning and name of Church)

Date of Commission: _____

Church Name: _____ City/State: _____

Clerk of Session, if applicable (Dates of service)

Treasurer, if applicable (Dates of service)

Educator or Worship Leader:

Church School or Small Groups, if applicable (dates of service)

Worship Lay Leader, if applicable (How often?) _____

Please write down the name of any other committee or church group you have served. (Indicate if you have been a member or a committee chairperson, and how many years you have served as such.)

Committee	Chair/Member	Years of Service
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

SERVICE TO THE CHURCH AT LARGE

Service to a higher governing body (Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly): Write down the names of the departments, committees, and/or groups in which you have served. (Indicate if you have been a member or a chairperson, and years of service.)

Governing Body	Dept./Committee/ Task Force	Chairperson/ Member	Years of Service
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Have you ever been a member of a different denomination? If you answered yes, please provide the name, address, date of membership, and any other ways you served:

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____

 Service: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____

 Service: _____

Name: _____ Date: _____
 Address: _____

 Service: _____

Name of Applicant (*please print*): _____

Applicant's Signature: _____

Certification & Signature of your local Pastor or Presbytery Executive

Name of Pastor or Executive (*please print*): _____

Signature of Pastor or Executive: _____