

Benevolence Policy

I. Philosophy

The goal of the Benevolence fund is to empower people to move closer to living in right relationship with God, self and others. The purpose of this fund is not to just provide material assistance during a crisis but to seek the relief, rehabilitation and development of this person and their family over a period of time. This will be accomplished in 3 ways:

Relief - The provision of material goods to provide emergency relief from a particular crisis situation which can be in some way mitigated by the disbursement of money, gift cards or the provision of a particular item or assistance with individual or marriage counseling. Ex. Assistance with a mortgage payment.

Rehabilitation - working directly with the person to restore them to their pre-crisis condition (biblical condition) by asking them to take positive (obedience steps to God's word) steps towards working on their own recovery and restoration. Ex. Continued assistance with counseling services. **Accountability toward Restoration**

Development - Promoting an empowering process that will lead both the Helper and the Helped closer to being more of what God intended them to be. This will take various forms to include providing assistance in training for, obtaining and keeping a job, as well as providing financial assistance towards services such as counseling to deal with personal trauma or childcare to allow the time and opportunity to improve their education, spiritual development and skills.

II. Guidelines

Owners and Regular Attenders

Short-term assistance includes, but is not limited to:

- Food (always provide immediately in form of gift card)
- Utility bills*
- Rent*
- Medical bills*

* Must provide documentation of the need/bill and checks payable to a company or service provider

First request

\$200 or less in any type of assistance can be approved and distributed by Benevolence Coordinator (w/out board or Pastor approval). Ask member/attender to complete Request For Assistance Form and submit to Treasurer.

Assistance of more than \$200 must be approved by the Treasurer and Senior Pastor.



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Second request

A second request for any amount of money must be approved by the Senior Pastor, along with the Board of Directors. The goal at this point is to require the Requestor to meet with a staff member of the church in order to determine the extent of the financial assistance that will be needed and to evaluate the need for Rehabilitation and Development.

Short-term assistance limitations per year (unless otherwise approved):

- Member families up to \$800
- Regular attender families up to \$400
- Gift cards may be given to member families for groceries up to \$100 in addition to \$800
- No cash given to anyone

Those who do not personally attend the church.

Local residents or family or friends of those in the congregation. These are people with whom we have no relationship and no prior knowledge of their situation.

First request

\$100 or less in either a gift card or a check to a creditor to help them pay a pressing bill. This can be handled by the Benevolence Coordinator without (w/out board or Pastor approval). Ask Requestor to complete Request For Assistance Form and submit to Treasurer.

Assistance of more than \$100 must be approved by the Treasurer and Senior Pastor that includes an in-person intake meeting. Ask Requestor to complete Request For Assistance Form and submit to Treasurer.

Second request

A second request for any amount of money must be approved by the Senior Pastor, along with the Board of Directors. The goal at this point is to do an intake meeting by requiring the Requestor to meet with a board member of the church in order to evaluate the veracity of the request and the receptiveness of the recipient to the Rehabilitation and Development process.

Next Steps:

1. Administrative procedures - process to document all of the requests and approvals in a central place. Tracking the amount and providing BoD with updates.
2. Restoration procedures with all the biblical principles that apply in each particular case.
3. Accountability procedures until final restoration.



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