

Benevolence Policy

Benevolence Guidelines and Process

The benevolent fund is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when a family or individual requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help from family, friends, savings, or investments. It is intended to be a temporary help during a time of crisis.

Assistance from the benevolent fund is intended to be a one-time gift. In unusual circumstances, the Church may decide to help more than once. Under no circumstance is a gift from the benevolence fund to be considered a loan. No gift needs to be repaid, either in part or in full, in money, or in labor.

The Church will not provide financial assistance to anyone who, in its estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by receiving it.

Those requesting assistance must be willing to receive financial, family, or spiritual counseling.

Types of Assistance

Emergency Assistance: All requests for emergency assistance must be first investigated, verified, and validated by the Deacon over Benevolence and / or the Elder over Member Care. Emergency assistance may take the form of a transportation need, bill payment, purchase of groceries, or other tangible means as allowed by the church.

Short-Term Assistance: Short-term financial assistance shall consist of payment of specific bills to the applicable vendor. For accountability's sake, no checks or cash shall be given directly to the applicant without approval from church leadership.

Basic Requirements

1. The stated purpose of the benevolent fund is to meet peoples' basic emergency needs. Normally, these needs are defined as:
 - Lodging (including utilities)
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Medical treatment (May include medications)
2. All funds and advice given will be given in accordance within the By-Laws and Statement of Faith of King's Cross Church.
3. All expenditures will be in accordance with the guidelines contained in this policy. These include the approved recipients, dollar amounts, and purposes for the donation.

Exclusions

1. Needs that may or may not be met by the benevolent fund include:
 - Paying off credit cards. Exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use a credit card in a crisis or emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death, etc.)
 - Needs of individuals who are wanted by the law or for paying fines as a result of breaking the law

- Housing for unmarried couples that are romantically involved
- Legal fees
- Penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions
- School fees or tuition
- Transportation expenses, such as car payment, insurance fees, license or registration fees.

2. Disbursements to an individual will typically be made no more than twice a year.
3. While these disbursements will often be emergency in nature, it may take up to 5 business days to process the request.

Guidelines of priority

- Members of the church
- Regular attendees of the church
- Family of church members
- Community members at large

Benevolence Process

1. Complete and submit the Benevolence Request Form.
2. In the case of Emergency Assistance, if approved, the disbursements will be authorized.
3. In the case of Short Term Assistance, if approved, funds will be issued to the appropriate third party agency (power company, landlord, etc.)