



Benevolence Policy

December 2024

Purpose

This policy provides guidelines and procedures for providing financial and material assistance to individuals and families in need. It is our commitment to worship Jesus and bring hope to our community by extending Christian love and support to those facing hardship, while maintaining transparency, accountability, and the church's mission.

Principles

1st Street Church desires to provide assistance for those who are hurting. We have established our Benevolence Account specifically for those that are having a financial challenge due to a change in circumstance. We cannot solve the poverty problem and affirm the words of Jesus in John 12:8. However, we desire to adhere to the instructions of Matthew 25:31-46 and 1 John 3:17, describing the expectation that God's People care for those in need with prayer and action.

Types of Assistance

Money available from our Benevolence Account may be used to provide a one-time monetary payment. These payments are limited to full or partial payment for one's rent, mortgage, utilities, or other necessities deemed worthy by the pastors of 1st Street Church.

Funding for Benevolence

The Benevolence Account is to be funded in a number of different ways.

- Any individual is allowed to give directly to this account by explicitly indicating that a donation is for benevolence.
- The account should also receive funding from any financial surplus that the church experiences at the end of each fiscal year. It is the responsibility of the Trustee Board to evaluate whether there is a surplus each fiscal year, and to determine at their discretion how much money ought to be transferred to the Benevolence Account.
- At the beginning of each fiscal year, the Trustee Board should determine whether or not it is appropriate to transfer money from the Church's savings into the Benevolence Account.
- The Benevolence Account may also be funded directly through budgeted funds at the discretion of the trustees when budgeting for any given fiscal year.

Benevolence assistance should not be provided by any funds available outside of the designated Benevolence Account.

Eligibility

Assistance may be extended to individuals and families who are recognized as members or attenders of 1st Street Church.

Though excluded from financial assistance, those individuals not connected as part of the church body, will be offered prayer and information regarding community resources (including the food bank of 1st Street Church).

Procedure

1. Awareness

Once a pastor has become aware of the potential financial hardship of an eligible individual, the pastor will consult the other pastors of 1st Street Church to confirm the party's eligibility.

2. Consult the Trustees

After confirming the eligibility of the distressed party, the pastor handling the case is to submit a request to the Trustee Board. It is then the responsibility of the trustees to determine the dollar amount that is most feasible to provide, if any at all. This amount should factor in the circumstances of the receiving party, the church's financial position, and any guidance found through prayer.

3. Consult the Church Council

After consulting the Trustee Board, the pastor handling the case is to seek approval from the Church Council of 1st Street Church. The Council should make a decision based on the reports from the pastor and the trustees, along with any guidance found through prayer. This decision is meant to determine an official dollar amount and to approve the pay out to the receiving party.

4. Pay Out

Once there is a majority approval from the Church Council, the Treasurer or an appointed trustee is to issue payment directly to the servicer. Payment is not to be issued directly to the party seeking assistance.

5. Record Keeping

All benevolence activity is to be notated in a party's personal file, and kept private. A person's benevolence history is to be taken into account whenever a request is considered.

Communication

This policy and others can be found at <https://1ststreetchurch.com/info>

This policy will be periodically reviewed to ensure its effectiveness and relevance.
Amendments may be made with the approval of the Lead Pastor.