

## **Benevolence Policy and Application**

*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’”*

*Matthew 25:35-40*

### **Purpose**

God delights in His benevolent nature. He is kind, gracious, generous, patient, and loving. He is unrelenting in his care for us, and we are called to do the same with others.

The Scriptures provide numerous examples of the church providing relief to individuals. These cover a spectrum of needs: medical, shelter, helps, finances, etc. God’s people have always been proactive in the work of mercy and benevolence, and so it is desirable to organize our works and resources to this end (Matthew 5:42, Luke 10:30-37, Acts 2:45, Romans 12:8; 2 Corinthians 8:1-5).

The Benevolence Ministry exists to extend mercy to those in need that God might be glorified, and the nations be saved.

### **Policies**

1. This ministry reflects the generous heart of God (Matthew 20:15). It is to be conducted with joy, not under compulsion, motivated by thankfulness to God for His generosity towards us (2 Corinthians 9:7ff).
2. This ministry must account for those with on-going needs, such as widows and orphans (James 1:27).
3. While this ministry may provide relief to anyone, our priority is to care for the members of our church (Romans 12:13; Galatians 6:10).
4. The normal use of benevolence money is for unusual, sudden, or severe needs. While distributions may be offered over an extended period of time, this ministry is not normally intended to provide financial sustenance.
5. Individuals needing long-term assistance should look first to their families. (1 Timothy 5:4-16; esp. verses 4,8, and 15).
6. Individuals able to work but not demonstrating appropriate effort to secure gainful employment normally do not qualify for financial assistance (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

7. All candidates for financial assistance must be willing to comply with a church-designated counselor. Although not necessary in every case, it may be determined that financial counseling is needed.

8. Disbursements that exceed 40% of that year's budget (\$480 for 2020) the approval of an elder.

- If budget line has been met for the year, any other benevolence requests will simply need approval from elder before completing the request.

9. When a request is approved, Grace Hill Church will make payment directly to the vendor of benevolent request or provide requestor with a gift card. Unless under an extreme extenuating circumstance, at no time will recipient receive cash or personal check payment directly from Grace Hill Church.

10. Any alterations to these policies requires the approval of the elders.

### **Procedures**

1. All candidates for financial aid must complete a Financial Aid Application.

2. Financial disbursements are approved as designated by policy. Instructions are then provided to the church treasurer or elder over the finance team by the person authorizing the aid.

3. Upon receiving financial aid, all recipients must complete a Financial Aid Receipt.

4. Documentation is kept on file by the church treasurer.

**Financial Aid Application**

Please complete the following form and submit to an elder or deacon.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount requested: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Description of need: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Do you have access to any other sources of aid? YES / NO (circle one)

If yes, describe: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you willing to comply with a church-designated counselor? This may include providing additional financial information or instructions to reduce expenditures or pursue gainful employment. YES / NO (circle one)

Additional information: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Financial Aid Receipt**

Please complete the following form and submit to the church.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount received: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose of aid: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Recipient: \_\_\_\_\_