

Benevolence Funding for Missional Communities 2017

Overview: Grace Gathering operates not just through Sunday gatherings but also through missional communities (MCs) and other groups led by everyday members of the church who partner together under one umbrella to impact the world for the kingdom of God. The Elders at Grace believe that a portion of the finances the congregation gives to the church should be directed back into the missional communities for benevolence. Whereas the mission funds are to be used for reaching out specifically to unbelievers, these funds should be used to care for believers within a missional community.

Criteria: Benevolence funding is available for MCs who meet the following criteria:

1. The MC has a name
2. The MC has identifiable leaders seeking to live a 'Family On Mission' lifestyle
3. The MC has a predictable pattern of meeting
4. The MC has a clear missional focus (a specific neighborhood or network of people who don't yet know Jesus)
5. The MC leaders are in an accountable relationship with the MC Director

Amount: \$500 per missional community to be used solely for the purpose listed below

Purpose of the Money: Regarding the UP, IN, and OUT focus of each missional community, these funds are intended to be used for the IN (to serve and assist those inside the MC).

What is Considered Benevolence: Benevolent gifts have two characteristics: (1) the recipient has a need, and (2) the recipient cannot presently meet that need. Generally, "need" is a synonym for "necessity." As a result, missional communities should only meet needs that represent a necessity for the recipient. According to the IRS, a need should relate to **food, shelter, clothing, transportation or health care items**. If you have any questions on whether your benevolence request fits into these categories, please contact the church office before filling out the request.

Accessing the Funds: All transactions must be pre-approved by the MC Director and will be contingent on available funds at the time. Due to the potential number of transactions, each MC should try to limit their request to four benevolence requests per year. An electronic request form is available online. We strongly encourage missional communities to utilize these funds.

Other Guidelines:

- **All reimbursements require a receipt before a check will be given.** Although this is the case, please be sure to fill out a benevolence request form before the purchase is made.
- Money will be given as cashflow permits and will be given on a first come, first serve basis
- Checks will be written within two weeks
- All requests and approvals must come through the MC Director

And Finally...

Members of Grace Gathering who are not part of a MC but who would greatly benefit from benevolence can be signposted to Rodney Kraner who oversees the Deacons Fund and will be able to advise people about accessing Inasmuch Benevolence Ministry.