

Benevolence Funding for Missional Communities 2019

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: \$290 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. MC leaders and the person requesting benevolence should complete the **Benevolence Request Form**. We strongly encourage MCs to utilize these funds.

Other Guidelines: Members of Grace Gathering who are not part of a MC but who would 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.



GRACE GATHERING

Benevolence Request Form

To comply with IRS regulations, this confidential form must be filled out and filed with Grace Gathering's financial records.

Name of Applicant _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

Brief description of assistance requested from the church:

Reason for requesting assistance (how need was demonstrated): _____

Cost of the assistance and to whom (service provider) the assistance should be distributed:

Relationship to the church members or church leaders: _____

If the applicant is related, has the applicant received special treatment? _____

Names and titles of those approving the request (2 needed): _____

Applicants for financial assistance are awarded financial assistance based on financial need. Applicants are not granted financial assistance based on relationships between the applicant and church leaders or significant church contributors. The church does not discriminate applicants based upon race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic territory, or disability. However, the church reserves the right to discriminate based on religion.

The church benevolence committee may provide short-term (emergency) assistance and longer-term aid to ensure that recipients have the basic necessities such as food, clothing, housing, transportation, medical assistance (including psychological counseling), and other assistance as deemed necessary to assist an individual/family in maintaining access to basic needs. The preferred method of providing assistance will be to pay the recipient's needs directly to a business provider. Assistance may also be provided in the form of vouchers for goods or services. The type of aid that is appropriate depends on the individual's needs and available resources.

Statement of Need

I, _____, declare that I do not have the financial resources to provide for _____ at this time, nor do I expect to be able to provide financially for this need in a timely manner.

Signature of Applicant

Date _____

Signature of Witness

Date _____

Approval of Request

We agree that this benevolence request meets the benevolence guidelines of Grace Gathering.

Signed _____ Date _____

Signed _____ Date _____