



GRACE BRETHREN CHURCH of Millersburg

Churchwide Financial Aid Policy

Approved January 9, 2005

NON-ATTENDERS

Non-attenders should be directed to outside sources for assistance (i.e., Millersburg Ministerial Association, Kno-Ho-Co, Salvation Army, Infolink, HEAP, Pregnancy Crisis Center of Millersburg, Lighthouse Love Center, Clothes Closet, Telephone Billing Assistance, etc.)

NEW ATTENDERS AND / OR MEMBERS

New attenders and / or members should also be directed to outside sources of assistance, with limited financial or resource aid from the church in extreme emergencies.

ESTABLISHED ATTENDERS

Established attenders, while also directed to outside sources of assistance, may apply to receive specific financial and / resource aid from the church as the need arises.

LONG-TERM MEMBERS

Long-term members, although directed to any available outside sources of aid, may apply for more substantial financial and / or resource aid from the church.

FREQUENCY OF ASSISTANCE

Application to the church for assistance is to be limited to one shortfall per year.

APPROVAL OF ASSISTANCE

Assistance from the Deacon / Deaconess Board will be considered on a case by case basis.

AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE

Up to two hundred dollars [\$200] may be approved by the Deacon / Deaconess board to assist the person(s) in need. Beyond that amount, the approval of the elder board will also be needed.

FORM OF ASSISTANCE

The form of the assistance, when rendered by the church in approved situations, will be consistent with the need. For example....

Need: Help with utility payment.

Assistance: Check made out to the utility company.

Need: Help with rent or house payment.

Assistance: Check made out to property management company or landlord.

Need: Help with food.

Assistance: Vouchers for Rodhe's, or donated food.

Need: Help with gasoline.

Assistance: Voucher for gasoline at Citgo.

Under no circumstances will cash be given except in pre-approved situations of an extremely unusual nature.

CATASTROPHIC CIRCUMSTANCES

Devastating situations (such as long-term hospitalization, loss of job due to disability, etc.) may alter the amount and / or frequency of assistance, as needed, after approval by deacon / deaconess and elder boards.

LONG-TERM ASSISTANCE

There may be members and / or attenders who have long-term care and / assistance needs (such as ongoing help with rent, pharmaceutical requirements, etc.). Appropriate assistance above and beyond the scope of this document will be considered on a case by case basis by the deacons and the elders.

REPAYMENT OF ASSISTANCE

As assistance is rendered, it will either be 1) an outright gift (if the need is small enough), or 2) a loan to be repaid. When repaid, any and all money will go back into the Deacons Fund, thus replenishing and enlarging the fund so that others, in turn, may be helped as well.

In situations as the deacons may deem appropriate, the person being assisted may be encouraged to do service ministry projects around the church (such as painting, lawn care, etc.) as a way of responding to the assistance of the church.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND RESPONSIBILITY

For safety and accountability of both the church and the person(s) being assisted, at least one elder and one deacon and / or deaconess, in addition to the pastor, will be aware of who is being assisted, and to what extent.