

## *What's New Worship Benevolence Fund Policy FAQ*

### **What is the Benevolence Fund and the Benevolence Fund Policy?**

The benevolence fund is designed to provide assistance to both church members and members of the community who are experiencing difficulties meeting needs such as food, clothing, shelter, or other financial needs.

The benevolence fund policy is a tool to help the church comply with increasing federal guidelines in operating nonprofit organizations. The policy is intended to help the church avoid conflicts by providing well written and understandable content based on biblical handling of the financial resources God has provided.

### **How is It Funded?**

Funds are received in the form of tithe donations earmarked for the fund, donations made at fundraising events, and each year's Annual Budget designation.

### **Can I contribute to the Benevolence Fund and is it tax-deductible?**

Donations earmarked for the Benevolence Fund as part of your regular tithe to What's New Worship are tax-deductible. Per IRS Guidelines, the church cannot accept contributions that are intended for a particular recipient and the church reserves the right to return any donations made in this manner. Funds intended for particular recipients should be given as gifts directly to that person. Anonymous suggestions for fund use may be done by submitting an Application to the church— these suggestions must be advisory in nature only and not a requirement of donation.

### **What is the process for requesting assistance?**

1. Submit an Application. These are available in the church lobby and can be placed in our locked tithe boxes in the sanctuary. While these requests will often be emergency in nature, approved request may take up to 5-10 business days to process the request; thus the application should be made as soon as the potential issue is identified.
2. The Benevolence Committee prayerfully reviews each request. The Committee may request additional information. Committee Members are anonymous in order to avoid outside influence.
3. Approved partial or full requests will be disbursed based on the type of need and Committee approval.

### **How does the Benevolence Committee look at requests?**

1. Each request is first prayerfully considered.
2. The Committee reviews the type of request and various ways to assist.
3. Financial Aid is limited based on the available balance of the Benevolence Fund
4. The Benevolence Fund Policy details how to prioritize requests and aid.