



# Benevolence Policy

## Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to set forth the conditions for which the vestry of Redeemer Anglican Church may authorize and disburse funds that are classified as benevolence. Benevolence disbursements will only be approved to provide for the basic necessities of life to needy persons. Types of disbursements may include food, clothing, shelter, medical care, financial support, and other types of assistance. Assistance provided as benevolence is intended to be a one-time gift.

All benevolence requests must receive approval by a simple majority of the vestry before any funds, services, or material assistance is disbursed. Benevolence is a non-taxable charitable contribution provided to alleviate hardship.

Although Redeemer Asheville will make every effort to honor the contribution designation of the donor, contributions become the property of the church, and the church has the discretion to determine how to best use contributions to carry out its functions and purposes. Such control of contributions by the church is required to ensure that they will be used to carry out its exempt functions and purposes, and to ensure donors' contributions satisfy requirements for tax-deductibility.

## Criteria

Factors that may qualify someone for benevolence include, but are not limited to:

- loss of employment
- death in the family of wage earner
- costly medical condition
- severe hardship resulting from a natural disaster
- critical injury or loss

Though not a comprehensive list of criteria, the board will review each benevolence request to ensure that it meets with both the literal interpretation of the policy as well as the general intent behind the policy.

Benevolence will not be approved for:

- business investments, or anything that could be construed to bring financial profit to the individual or family
- paying off credit cards. Exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use credit cards to pay for a crisis or emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death, etc.)
- needs of individuals who are wanted by the law or for paying fines as a result of breaking the law
- legal fees
- penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions
- private school fees or tuition

## Process

Benevolence requests must be made by the person requesting assistance or by someone who is directly assisting the person in need. Requests should be submitted online through the church website, mailed or emailed to the church, where it will then be forwarded to the church vestry. Requests should include the following:

- Name and address of person for whom benevolence is requested
- Criteria for which benevolence might apply to said individual
- Benevolence Requested (e.g., clothing, food, shelter, finances, etc.)
- Contact information for the person making the request (if representing the potential recipient) so that the vestry can follow up with additional questions if needed.

All requests will be reviewed and voted on by the vestry. The vestry will review the request and ensure that it meets the stipulations of this policy. If the vestry determines that the benevolence request qualifies, the vestry must arrive at a simple majority approval before any disbursements are made. The vestry will determine both the type and/or amount of the benevolence to be disbursed. Disbursements for approved benevolence will be issued within two weeks of the approval.