

North Haven Church Benevolence Request Form

Throughout the Bible, God expresses a special concern for those in need. It's clear that He cares for, watches over, and provides for the poor (*Job 29:12*). The concern for those in need was also at the very core of Jesus' ministry. God's Word also commands those who follow Him to do the same (*Luke 11:41; Proverbs 14:31*).

Our motivation for giving and generosity is our love for God. *Proverbs 19:17* states, "Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD." Jesus taught us that, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me" (*Matthew 25:34-36*). We collect monies for the Benevolent Fund and disperse them to those in need as our expression of following God and loving people.

Benevolent Fund Operating Policy

- The purpose of the Benevolence Fund is to provide financial aid to an individual who is in need on an urgent basis. The Benevolence Fund may not be applicable for cases which need long-term financial support. The church has the right to adjust or to disapprove an applicant's request.
- Applicants are not granted financial assistance based on relationships between church leaders or being a significant church contributor. The church does not discriminate between applicants based upon race, color, sex, national origin, age, geographic territory, or disability.
- The preferred method of providing assistance is to pay for the applicant's need directly to the business provider.

The purpose of the Benevolent Fund is to meet basic needs. Normally, these needs are defined as:

- Lodging
- Food
- Clothing
- Medical treatment or expenses
- Transportation to or from a place of employment (may include auto repair)
- Funeral expenses
- Professional counseling appointments, including initial evaluation

Needs that may NOT be met by the Benevolent Fund include:

- Business ventures or investments; or anything that brings financial profit to the individual or family
- Paying off credit cards; exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use a credit card in 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
- Housing for unmarried couples
- Legal fees
- Penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions

Benevolent Fund Request Process

- Potential beneficiary's need is communicated in person to the Pastors/Staff member by the **beneficiary** or their legal representative.
- For call-in, drop in or initial appointments, the Office Assistant prepares the Request for Assistance Form and completes an initial survey and history review. When complete and properly documented, the Request for Assistance form is routed to a pastor, for initial evaluation.
- It is important to note again that this fund is intended to be a temporary help during a time of crisis – and to be a limited, often one-time gift
- The Pastor meets with person in need and determines the recommended course of action and amount of financial aid, if appropriate.
- Recipients should understand to expect a minimum of one day for processing requests.