

Miles Chapel Baptist Church

Guidelines for Benevolence Fund

The Miles Chapel Baptist Church has established a benevolence fund that is designed to assist individuals and families experiencing emergency situations and in financial need. It is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when persons requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help from family, friends, savings, other community resources, etc. It is intended to offer temporary help during a time of need.

Assistance from the fund is intended to be a **one time gift** in a calendar year. In unusual or extenuating circumstances, the benevolence fund may be used to help more than once.

Those requesting assistance should be willing to receive a 30 minute financial /spiritual counseling session.

Here are some important principles that are essential for a smooth process. These policies are **not** intended to burden you - but to simply be a responsible way for us to discern needs and use God's money wisely. We want to provide compassionate assistance according to our guidelines and available resources in time of difficulty.

Recipients:

In order of priority recipients may request assistance from the Benevolence Fund:

- Church members
- Non-members/members of the community

Maximum Assistance Available:

- **\$300.00**

We may help you, and this is how we will do it:

- We will encourage you to walk with God. That's the main reason we exist. If you do not have a relationship with God, we would love to help you come to know Jesus as your Savior and come to walk in God's way.
- We will treat you with dignity and respect and we expect the same from you.
- We will never give cash.
- If funds are available and approved, checks will be made payable only to the service provider to whom bills are owed; *e.g. mortgage company, utility provider, etc.*
- We do not pay; *automobile payments, telephone bills, security deposits, taxes or legal expenses.*
- We do not say "yes" without prayerful evaluation that includes asking you to fill out an application form and give us permission to verify the information you have stated. The review team will decide upon the application within a maximum of **10 business days**. When a decision has been made, the applicant will be notified by letter. Phone calls will

not be used to approve or disapprove the request and the church requires that it have written proof of its decision and notification to the applicant.

- **At time of interview, you must present copies, of invoices, eviction notices, disconnect notices, pay stubs and any other documentation that may assist the Benevolence Team in accurately understanding your financial situation. If financial assistance is requested, bills must be in the individual's name requesting the assistance. Failure to bring required documents could delay process. Incomplete applications will not be considered.**
- **If the amount we approve is not enough to cover the amount needed, arrangements must be made to secure the balance, before our funds are obligated.**