# Member’s Benevolence Fund

This is intended for benevolence given to active church members, not non-attending community members. Following is an outline of how you might use this at your church. Anyone who is tasked with receiving requests and making decisions should review this.

**Process**

1. Submit Application to pastor. Use the Benevolence Financial Application.
2. Submitted to deacons for review
3. Application approved, partially approved, denied or deferred for more information
4. We’ll try this for a year and see how it works

**Guidelines**

1. Applicant must be a regular member of the church (who financially supports the church?) who is visibly making effort to follow the Lord and have been attending at least 6 months before becoming eligible.
2. Applications can only be considered once per year
3. Monies can only be requested by applicant for applicant (no public or relatives)
4. Deacons and Pastor cannot be decision makers on applications they submit for themselves.
5. Deacons/esses will assemble a benevolence guideline.
6. The request must be for a need that is reasonable in scale (generally less than $1000), and considered a necessity—not a desire or luxury (e.g. utilities, car payment, funeral, not new TV or cell phone).
7. Medical needs must not be things that insurance or medicare/aid can pay for or where payments can be arranged. No prescriptions for narcotic or THC based medicines can be paid. Medicare/aid reimbursable travel expenses may be advanced for out of town appointments.
8. No monies can be awarded to help people move out of town.
9. No jail bonds, fines, probation, or testing fees will be paid.
10. Remittances are not loans but gifts from the church.

**Church Member Fund Collection Process**

1. Separate box or envelopes
2. Promote in church along with guidelines
3. Discerning public reporting made from time to time
4. Monies held in distinct category
5. Initially, monies will be built up before accepting applications
6. Monies should come from church members, not outside supporters