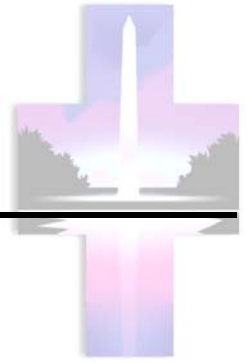


CHURCH OF CHRIST, GEORGIA AVENUE

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# Benevolence Ministry

## **PROGRAMS**

- FINANCIAL SUPPORT – MEMBERS
- FINANCIAL SUPPORT – NON MEMBERS
- BEREAVEMENT

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# Duties of Benevolence Ministry

## Benevolence Committee:

The benevolence committee is responsible for accomplishing the following:

- Determining appropriate level of financial support for members of the congregation with demonstrated needs.
- Encouraging conversion of non-members through financial support and teaching.
- Coordinating referral programs that utilize services of district or federal government agencies.

*“He who is gracious to a poor man lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his good deed.” Proverbs 19:17*

## Guidelines and Standards for Receiving Help

*“... Give cheerfully, not grudgingly or of necessity for God loveth a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:7*

*“But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, [and] easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.” Jam 3:17*

- a) God says it is required of stewards that they are found faithful. 1 Cor. 4:2. Therefore, members that need to be helped through the congregation’s benevolence program must first be found faithful.
- b) Individuals will occasionally lose their jobs and be without gainful employment. However, every case of unemployment will not merit financial assistance from the congregation. For example, if an individual is able-bodied, unwilling to work and is not seeking gainful employment, assistance would not be appropriate. In such a case, the member should first be asked to explore and accept employment that may be “less desirable” than they are used to. If members are not willing to work “any” respectable and legal employment, that should be a significant factor in the benevolence committee’s decision.
- c) Individuals requesting financial assistance from the congregation must be willing to submit to both financial and spiritual counseling if the committee deems it appropriate. In certain cases, simply giving funds will address the symptoms but will not solve the member’s problems. As a congregation, we don’t want to be guilty of dealing with the financial symptom only.
- d) Lifestyles should be reviewed and non-judgmental recommendations should be made before approving the dispersal of funds. Once recommendations are made to the person or persons receiving help, they should be willing to follow the recommendations.

- e) The committee must hold information shared with it in strict confidence. Members' personal financial matters must not be shared with others without their express consent. Additionally, members requesting assistance should be asked not to share the committee's finding with other members.
- f) The committee is charged with being wise stewards of the Lord's resources. They will have to verify concerns and details to ascertain the truthfulness of each case and the best course of action.

**A. Submitting for Benevolence Assistance**

1. Generally, requests for assistance should be written out and submitted to a member of the committee by the member or family in need.
2. Upon receiving a request, the committee will convene and ask questions of the requesting member regarding the circumstances and make a collective determination on what degree of assistance, if any, the congregation will render.
3. The request should be submitted from the member or family in need.
4. The member or family must be willing to meet with the financial committee who will determine the amount of assistance needed if applicable.

**B. Financial Assistance – Members (Georgia Avenue church of Christ only)**

Some guidelines the committee should use:

- Member's faithfulness to the Georgia Avenue church of Christ.
- The occurrence of unforeseen tragedy or misfortune (fire, car accident, death, disability, etc.)
- The loss of employment and employment benefits.
- Documentation supporting active seeking of employment.
- Financial assistance will not exceed or extend beyond three (3) months.
- Member(s) must be willing to participate in a Social and/or Economic Recovery Program/Plan.
- Member(s) must be willing to update committee on progress or recovery.

**C. Financial Assistance – Non-members (Non Christians)**

The committee must consider the following factors, among others, for person(s) requesting assistance:

- Willingness to meet with the committee who will determine the amount of assistance to be rendered, if any;
- Willingness to submit to a Bible study;
- Demonstrable loss of employment and employment benefits;
- Documented proof of active seeking of employment as evidence by documentation.

- Willingness to participate in a Social and/or Economic Recovery Program/Plan.
- Willingness to update the committee on progress of recovery.
- Financial assistance will not exceed two (2) months.

#### **D. Bereavement**

Purpose: To coordinate the repast for the bereaved family.

Responsibilities:

- Ministers will contact a sister congregation for use of their facility;
- Coordinate repasts in conjunction with the ladies ministry;
- Prepare kitchen and dining area for serving;
- Clean kitchen and dining areas after repast;
- Submit all repast receipts to the treasurer for reimbursement.

## **Repast Menu**

Fried and/or baked chicken  
 Potato salad and/or macaroni & cheese  
 Green beans  
 Cranberry sauce  
 Rolls  
 Punch  
 Pound cakes

To serve 100 people:

175 pieces of chicken  
 6 large pound cakes  
 4 gallons – punch  
 2 ginger ale (3 liter size)  
 32 lb. potato salad  
 4 cans green beans (6 lb. size)  
 6 cans cranberry sauce  
 10 dozen rolls

To serve 125 people:

200 pieces of chicken  
 7 large pound cakes  
 4 gallons of punch  
 3 ginger ale (3 liter size)  
 32 lb. potato salad  
 4 cans green beans (6 lb. size)  
 7 cans cranberry sauce  
 12 dozen rolls