

**Freewill Missionary Baptist Church  
Financial Assistance Guidelines**

For Office Use:  
Date Rec'd \_\_\_\_\_  
Rec'd By \_\_\_\_\_

We care about you. And in the interest of helping as many people as possible, we offer a benevolence ministry. God's people have trusted God and supported the Freewill Church financially. Therefore, it is our responsibility to be good stewards. We can't help everyone with everything, but we do our best.

Here are some important principles that are essential for you to understand. These policies are not intended to burden you - but to simply be a responsible way for us to understand needs and use God's resources wisely:

- We will treat you with dignity and respect.
- We will never give cash.
- We do not say "yes" without prayerful evaluation that includes asking you to fill out an application and giving us permission to verify the information you have stated.
- We will help with shelter, food, and utilities. We don't pay bills for non-essential items (*i.e. phone, cable, internet, etc.*).
- We will require for you to take primary responsibility for your needs, and then turn to your family **BEFORE** we involve church funds.
- You will be required to complete financial classes to be held at FMBC if deemed necessary by the benevolence committee.

Acceptable reasons for rendering aid are:

- Destruction of family residence (*serious damage to the residence to the extent that the residence is unlivable or unsafe due to water damage, earthquake, smoke or fire damage*).
- Loss of Significant household income due to:
  - Loss of Employment
  - Unexpected Financial Hardship
  - Death
  - Divorce/Separation
  - Illness

**Request Process**

- Read Benevolence Guidelines completely.
- Complete an application. (**Note: Applications are reviewed on Monday's**)
- Meeting, either in person or via telephone, with designated Committee Member.
- Additional contact by designated Committee Member may be required to complete the application process. Details of the application will only be discussed with the parties directly involved.
- Notification regarding outcome of application
- All approved assistance will be paid **to the vendors**.

**WE DESIRE THAT YOU NOT CONTINUE IN A BAD FINANCIAL SITUATION. THEREFORE, WE WANT YOU TO KNOW:**

- We do provide references to other agencies and help programs. These programs have their own guidelines that may not reflect the Freewill Baptist Church processes and procedures.
- By submitting and signing this application you are agreeing to not hold the Freewill Missionary Baptist Church responsible for any directives from outside references that were recommended.

**\* NOTICE TO REQUESTER**

Please attach copies of the following to this application prior to submission.

1. Monthly expenses (Monthly Budget Worksheet will be provided upon request)
2. Statements/bills for which you are requesting assistance

This benevolence form is not a contract for assistance, nor is it a guaranty of assistance from FMBC.

**Freewill Missionary Baptist Church  
Financial Assistance Guidelines (continued)**

**GUIDELINES FOR NON-MEMBERS**

The Benevolence Team will:

- Refer you to the appropriate agencies (Welfare Department, MCCEO, etc.) These agencies are listed on our website: freewillbaptistchurch.org
- Arrange for Ministerial counseling (as long as it is not to appeal the financial request), when requested.
- Food gift cards or Food Pantry referrals.

Assistance is intended to be a gift. However, under no circumstances is a gift from the Freewill Missionary Baptist Church to be considered a loan. No gift may be repaid, either in part or in full, in money or in labor.

The Benevolence Committee will not provide help to anyone who, in its estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by financial help.

Those requesting help must be willing to give the Benevolence Committee permission to follow up on any information provided to the Committee. The Committee will be sensitive to confidential information.

You may be required to meet with a committee member or designee for all requests made in two consecutive years. Also, for repeated requests, money management classes may be recommended at the discretion of the committee.

If you wish to continue with this process, please:

1. Sign below to indicate you accept and understand the policies stated above.
2. Sign the Release of Information Form.
3. Fill out the Financial Assistance Application.
4. Return your monthly expenses, all signed forms and the application

This is not a contract for assistance. I understand the terms stated above under which I may seek assistance from the Freewill Missionary Baptist Church.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Requestor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Spouse (if applicable)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

- **To avoid any delays, please make sure all documents are attached**