



Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church
1640 West County Line Road
Jackson MS 39213
Phone: 601-354-2026
Stephen F. Mason, Pastor

Benevolence Policy

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him? My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. (I John 3:17-18)

And the multitude of them that believed were of one heart and of one soul: neither said any of them that ought of the things which he possessed was his own; but they had all things common. (Acts 4:32)

WHO CAN BE HELPED?

Greater Pearlie Grove Missionary Baptist Church's Benevolence procedures and policy exists to glorify Christ by sharing His love in a physical way with members in our congregation. Benevolence assistance will be given to any member, who meets the requirements, when it is determined that the member is truly "in need".

BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE

The Benevolence Committee is a subcommittee of the Deacon's Ministry. The committee reviewing the benevolence case will be comprised of, at least, five deacons. It has been modeled after Acts 6:1-6, when the Apostles appointed seven men from the congregation to minister to those who had needs.

The objective of this policy is to set forth the responsibilities of the Benevolence Committee and the guidelines for discharging those responsibilities. It is not intended to cover all circumstances under which funds may be approved, adjusted or denied. The Benevolence Committee has the ultimate responsibility and accountability of the Benevolence Fund and the Biblical stewardship of the money held therein.

The Benevolence Committee shall determine who will receive disbursements from the Benevolence Fund, in what amount, and for what duration.

The Pastor will have full authority to alter the policy or change any decision made by the Benevolence Committee.

CONFIDENTIALITY

The member(s) will be apprised of the need for extreme confidentiality when dealing with personal issues of the needy. All matters will remain within the confines of the Deacon Ministry. However, the Deacon Ministry may divulge personal information to appropriate outside individuals such as the Pastor or specific financial, family, or spiritual counselors when it is in the best interest of the member(s).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Benevolence assistance is available to members of Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church. Members seeking benevolence assistance must have a record of membership of at least three months prior to the date of request. Greater Pearlie Grove does not provide monetary assistance to individuals who are not members of the church. These individuals are referred to local ministries that are designed to help meet the individual's needs. Available agencies include, but are not limited to:

- American Red Cross: 601-353-5442
- Stewpot Community Services: 601-353-2759
- Salvation Army: 601-968-3999
- Hinds County Resource Agency: 601-355-6808

BENEVOLENT PROCESS

An individual member or family seeking benevolent assistance should take the following steps in order to request assistance from Greater Pearlie Grove.

1. Go to the church website (www.gpgmbc.org), print and complete the *Benevolence Request Form*. Applications without all supporting documents will not be accepted. (*Note: Paper copies of the application can be obtained by contacting the church secretary at 601/354-2026*).
2. Members must seek assistance for themselves and not send other members in their place.
3. Within five (5) business days after receipt of an application, the committee will review the information, after the review the member will be contacted. During the review process the committee may seek to contact utility companies, landlords, or others to verify the request.
4. Members must have explored all possibilities of assistance from family, friends, savings or investments to resolve their case prior to seeking benevolent assistance from the church.
5. Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church Benevolence Fund assistance is a secondary resource. Each applicant's request is reviewed by the Benevolence Committee. It is during this review process that "the need" is verified and the amount of assistance is determined. No funds are issued on the same day as the request is submitted.
6. Applicants are required to expeditiously comply with all directions and instructions given by the Benevolence Committee or they will forfeit their opportunity for assistance. If a check is approved, it will be made payable to the vendor(s) on behalf of the member. Checks **will not** be made payable to members or to cash.
 - a. If an applicant has a portion of the payment, that portion will be given or submitted to the Benevolence Committee and a check will be made payable to the vendor for the entire amount.
7. Records will be kept for all benevolent cases and will be handled in **confidence**.

BENEVOLENCE NEED CATEGORIES

The stated purpose of the benevolence fund is to meet members' basic needs, such as but not limited to:

- Clothing
- Food
- Medical treatment / Prescription Drugs (medically necessary for the treatment of an illness or injury)
- Initial evaluation and professional counseling appointments

Needs that may **not** be met by the benevolence fund include but are not limited to:

- Utilities (lights, gas, water), car payments, mortgage payments, rent, etc. **These will be referred to resource agencies for handling.**
- School expenses, business investments, or anything that brings financial profit to the person or family.
- Paying off credit cards.

- 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
- Private school fees or tuition
- Repasts (Catering after a funeral)

NOTE: Loans will not be made for any form of benevolence assistance.

DISBURSEMENT

The benevolence fund for Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church is intended to be a source of last resort, to be used when a member or family requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help from family, friends, savings, or investments. The benevolence fund is intended to be a temporary help during a time of crisis.

Assistance from the benevolence fund is intended to be a one-time gift. In unusual circumstances, the Benevolence Committee may decide to help more than once. Under no circumstance is a gift from the benevolence fund to be considered a loan. No gift may be repaid, either in part or in full, in money, or in labor.

Those requesting assistance must be willing to receive financial, family, or spiritual counseling, if deemed necessary. The Benevolence Committee will not provide help to anyone who, in its estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by receiving financial assistance.

Those requesting assistance must be willing to give the committee permission to follow up on any information provided to the committee.

The Deacons of Greater Pearlie Grove M.B. Church affirm these principles and, by God's grace and His glory, commit to be guided by them as we exercise faithful stewardship of the funds entrusted to us for the purpose of ministering and providing benevolence to members in their time of need.