

Appendix D: Reformation Christian Fellowship Benevolence Policy

Biblical Foundations

Caring for the physical and financial needs of others is not just a good thing, it is indeed a biblical thing. Jesus himself teaches that we ought to strive to meet the needs of anyone in our community as he says...

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. ' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ' Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you? ' And the King will answer them, ' Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me. (Matthew 25:35-40 ESV)

Yet while meeting the needs of the community members is indeed a good and biblical thing, the Apostle Paul teaches us that it is even more emphasis is to be placed on caring for the needs of fellow Church members. We see this in...is In the New Testament, we see the church caring for the needs of the body...

So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. (Galatians 6:10 ESV)

Practical Implications

In light of what the Bible teaches us regarding benevolence, we have chosen to adopt the following policy...

Just as the early church used money from tithes and offerings to show benevolence to others (Acts 4:34-35), we at Reformation Christian Fellowship are willing to use money from the tithes and offerings to show benevolence to others as well. Of course this begs the following questions...

Who will we help?

What kind of aid do we offer?

Who will we help?

While we are willing to offer various kinds of financial and provisional help to anyone, we place a special priority on meeting the needs of the members of Reformation Christian Fellowship.



What kind of aid do we offer?

Non Church Members

For non RCF members, we will offer the following forms of assistance as we are able and willing on a case by case basis.

- Groceries
- Utilities
- Mortgage or Rent

We may not provide these forms of assistance for people whose personal vices and sinful life choices put them in a place of need. For example, we may refuse to provide groceries if the person can provide groceries for themselves if they choose to not purchase cigarettes, alcohol, or lottery tickets. Also, we may not provide assistance if there is another able responsible party who might be able to meet the particular need. Furthermore, we may refuse these forms of assistance if we have reason to believe that person requesting assistance is being, in any way, deceitful or less than totally forth-coming about their financial situation. Finally, when requesting assistance with utilities or mortgage/rent, we require that you sign a covenant agreeing to faithfully attend worship and pursue financial counseling and accountability.

Church Members

For RCF members, we offer nearly any form of financial need as we are able and willing. That tis not to say that we will help with anything. For example, we will not assist with things like cable bills, cell phone/data plans, or any other expenditures that might not be considered a legitimate need. To receive financial assistance, a member should make their need known to one or more of the elders and the elders next meeting, they will decide whether assistance can be provided.

As in the case of non-members, we may not provide these forms of assistance for people whose personal vices and sinful life choices put them in a place of need. For example, we may refuse to provide groceries if the person can provide groceries for themselves if they choose to not purchase cigarettes, alcohol, or lottery tickets. Also, we may not provide assistance if there is another able responsible party who might be able to meet the particular need. Furthermore, we may refuse these forms of assistance if we have reason to believe that person requesting assistance is being, in any way, deceitful or less than totally forth-coming about their financial situation. Finally, when requesting assistance with utilities or mortgage/rent, or any other form of assistance in which the church will provide substantial assistance, we require that you sign a covenant agreeing to faithfully attend worship and pursue financial counseling and accountability.

