

# Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

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## Benevolence Policy



**Rev. Trevor Crenshaw, Pastor**

"And don't forget to do good and to share with those in need. These are the sacrifices that please God."

Hebrews 13:16

# Benevolence Policy and Guidelines

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## Purpose of this Document

1. Establish and outline an objective, unbiased process for the evaluation of requests for assistance from the Trinity Missionary Baptist Church Benevolent.
2. Provide written eligibility requirements and criteria for receiving benevolent assistance from TMBC.
3. Describe the request, approval, and disbursement process.

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## Biblical Basis

The policies and guidelines set forth in this TMBC Benevolence Policy shall be guided and directed by the following Biblical principles:

1. But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him? Little children, let us not love with word or with tongue, but in deed and truth. (1 John 3:17 NASB)
2. They (James, Peter and John) only asked us (Paul and Barnabas) to remember the poor – *the very thing I (Paul) also was eager to do.* (Gal 2:10 NASB)
3. And all those who had believed were together and had all things in common; and they began selling their property and possessions and were sharing them with all, as *anyone might have need.* (Acts 2:44-45 NASB)
4. Now, brethren, we wish to make known to you the grace of God which has been given in the churches of Macedonia, that in a great ordeal of affliction their abundance of joy and their deep poverty overflowed in the wealth of their liberality. For I testify that according to their ability, and beyond their ability, they gave of their own accord, begging us with much urging *for the favor of participation in the support of the saints,* (2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NASB)
5. Let us not lose heart in doing good, for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary. So then, while we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, and especially to those who are of the household of the faith. (Galatians 6:9-10 NASB)
6. Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows *in their distress*, and to keep oneself unstained by the world. (James 1:27 NASB)

The Deacon and Finance Ministry of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church affirm these principles and, by God's grace and for His glory, commit to be guided by them as we exercise faithful stewardship of the responsibility entrusted to us for the purpose of ministering and providing benevolence to individuals or families in need of assistance.

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**Oversight and Accountability**

The Deacons and Finance Ministry, under the oversight of the Pastor, shall have responsibility for overseeing the administration of TMBC Benevolence. The Deacons and Finance Ministry shall determine who will receive disbursements from TMBC Benevolence annual budget allotment, in what amount, and for what duration.

The Deacons and Finance Ministry shall give a regular accounting to the Church Body (annually) and the Leadership Ministry (quarterly) of all contributions to and disbursements from TMBC Benevolence.

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**Source of Funding**

The TMBC Benevolence shall receive income through:

1. The receipt of contributions by individuals and/or families wishing to make a donation to TMBC marked Benevolence.
  2. Annual budget designation.
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**Recipients of Assistance**

In order of priority, recipients of assistance from the TMBC Benevolence shall be:

1. Members of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
  2. Regular attendees of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church
  3. Members of the community
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**Intended Purpose and Limits of Assistance**

The stated purpose of Benevolence is to minister to individuals or families during a time of hardship or crisis by temporarily assisting them with their essential needs.

Depending on the circumstances, assistance may also include financial counseling, training in household budgeting and/or debt management, or other financial education that would help the individual or family avoid potential hardships or crises in the future.

Generally, assistance from Benevolence is intended to cover an individual's or family's basic needs.

Needs that may *not* be met by TMBC Benevolence include<sup>1</sup>:

- Business investments, business debts, or anything that brings financial profit to the individual or family
- Paying off credit cards. Exceptions can be made when an individual has had to use a credit card in a crisis or emergency (e.g., hospitalization, death, etc.)
- 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 arising from criminal behavior
- Gambling debts
- Penalties relating to late payments or irresponsible actions
- School tuition or fees

<sup>1</sup>This list is not intended to be exhaustive; instead, it is intended to provide general guidelines in determining the type of expenses not covered by benevolent assistance.

## **Guidelines for Disbursement**

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Benevolence is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when the individual or family requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of assistance from appropriate sources (i.e., family, savings, investments, etc). It is intended to be a means of assistance during the time of a crisis or other hardship.

Disbursements from the TMBC Benevolence may not be made in the form of a loan. Under no circumstance is assistance from the Benevolence 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 other appropriate Biblical counseling. The Deacons and Finance Ministry will not provide help to anyone who, in their estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by the financial assistance.

Those requesting help must be willing to grant the Deacons and Finance Ministry permission to follow up on any of the information provided to them. The Deacons and Finance Ministry will be sensitive to confidentiality issues.

To the extent possible, and at the discretion of the Deacons and Finance Ministry, all disbursements from TMBC Benevolence shall be made directly to the party or entity to whom payment is due and not in the form of cash given directly to the individual or family requesting assistance (e.g., if assistance with rent or a mortgage payment is needed, payment shall be made directly to the individual or family's landlord or mortgage holder).

## **Application and Approval Process**

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Individuals or families seeking assistance from TMBC Benevolence shall follow the steps below:

1. Obtain and submit a Financial Benevolence Application from the TMBC Deacon Ministry (along with all supporting documentation).
2. Complete interview(s) and/or appropriate counseling with the Deacons.
3. Provide all additional documents and information requested by the Deacons.

Review and approval of the Application, as well as communication of the amount and form of assistance shall be done by the Deacons and/or Finance Ministry at the earliest practicable date.

# Financial Benevolence Application

Date of application: \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Description of crisis/hardship: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you need from TMBC: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Information for Check:

Vendor: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount due: \_\_\_\_\_

### TMBC Deacon Use Only

Amount approved: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_ Deacon Ministry Leader

\_\_\_\_\_ Treasurer