

Ministers Benevolence Fund Policy & Procedures

As part of our commitment to creating and sustaining a loving community that provides support and care for others through the best and most difficult of times, UUCA has provided for a benevolence fund, administered by the Senior Minister. This fund is held in a separate checking account and underwritten primarily through regularly scheduled special Sunday and holiday plate collections and some individual donations.

To ensure integrity, fairness, transparency and good stewardship in the management of and dispersal of these monies, the following guidelines have been developed:

- Financial gifts must go to the general fund and may not be designated for specific persons or uses.
- Highest priority goes to emergency assistance to UUCA participants, with exceptions made at the discretion of the Senior Minister or designee.
- There will be a one-time use of this fund by an individual or family unit in a calendar year.
- In the past, Benevolence Funds have gone to assist congregants in paying the rent or mortgage, car payments, medical bills, utility bills, and similar debts which are time sensitive. In general, depending on how much monies are in the Benevolence Fund, assistance can be up to 1500 dollars.
- The check for assistance will go directly to the vendor or agency for debt owed. Exceptions may be made at the discretion of the minister(s).
- We are exploring other community ministry partnerships and referrals that may help patch or expand our ability to provide assistance in times of need.
- There may be other uses made of this fund, including but not limited to contributions to community events or initiatives consistent with our mission and ends statements; gifts or contributions for ceremonial occasions (ordinations, installations), or other appropriate uses.
- In consultation with the UUCA Board, the ministers may use Benevolence Funds to underwrite events or trainings that address unanticipated needs in the congregation relating to pastoral care issues (like professional grief counseling or suicide prevention).

Note: The term "Discretionary" was replaced with "Benevolence" in December 2012