

**Farmdale Church of Christ**  
**6476 Farmdale Road**  
**Barboursville, West Virginia 25504**  
**(304) 736-5447**

**Church Benevolence Policy (Adopted March 2019)**

The Farmdale Church of Christ desires to glorify God by being generous as He blesses and directs us—especially to widows, orphans and the needy. Those in need of salvation will be encouraged to trust Jesus as the Lord and Savior. We strive to honor God by being good stewards of the funds entrusted to us by God and the congregation (Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-37; Gal 6:10; Phil 4:10-14, 19; 2 Thess 3:4-13; Eph 4:28; 1 Tim 5:3-16; 6:6-10; Jas 1:27; 2:15-16). The Scriptural basis listed here is not intended to be comprehensive, but is a recognition of solid New Testament support for benevolence ministries.

**Who FCC Helps:**

- Our first priority is to the members of our local body.
- We also desire to help those who are not members of our local body but are true believers in Jesus Christ.
- As it is wise to do so, FCC desires to help those who are in genuine, temporary need. This will be determined on a case by case basis. No cash gifts are given to those not attending our congregation (goods/services only).

**When FCC Helps:**

- FCC can only help as God blesses us to help. If we do not have the resources to help, then we may determine to bring a specific situation to the congregation to request help. This is determined on a case-by-case basis.
- IRS Regulations state that as a non-profit organization, we can only offer help to individuals or families for food, clothing, medical help, and shelter (which includes essential utilities). Any needs that do not fall into these four categories, we are unable to meet.
- FCC may recommend people to participate in any appropriate programs that are offered to meet some requests in our community (i.e. ECCHO for food/clothing to Cabell County residents).
- For those not attending our congregation, food is only available to each person (family) requesting help once per month (as supplies allow from our Food Pantry) and no more than four times a year. Records are kept for those who have been helped through the Food Pantry outreach.

**How FCC Helps:**

- An appointed committee is the primary administrator/s of the Benevolence Ministry and work as a designated Benevolence Team to determine distribution of funds/goods, as

available. When funds/goods are not available in Benevolence designated funds and the committee feels that there is a legitimate need, Eldership approval is required to fund the benevolence request.

- FCC Benevolence Policy encourages the family of the one requesting help to provide the necessary resources (1 Tim 5:3-8). Other sources may include retirement savings, eliminating unnecessary items in one's budget, and sale of unnecessary goods.
- For those not attending our congregation, or those not recommended by those attending our congregation, we will help with food, clothing items, and financial needs as available. For those who are a part of our congregation, we help financially with any need of food, clothing, and shelter as may seem wise, as funds are available.
- The information application must be filled out entirely. Sufficient time needs to be given for the examination, verification, and/or approval of the request before the due date of any bills in question. Normally, we suggest that the applicant make the request at least two weeks in advance of the bill due date. Those administering the benevolence fund will then verify that the information and the needs are genuine. After applying for benevolence, if the applicant acquires other resources which enable them to meet the bill/s in question without the church's assistance, the applicant is obligated to inform those administering the church funds and expected to pay the bill/s themselves.

Assistance will not be given in cases of:

1. Personal Loans
2. Unwillingness to Work (2 Thess 3:10) – We do not offer any jobs at the church property by those requesting help.
3. A demanding, unteachable, or uncooperative spirit.
4. If monetary funds have been given to one family unit (members) three or more times in a given year.

If a request meets the guidelines of this policy and funds are available, the appointed Committee may approve a gift given above and beyond this policy and reserves the right to change any funding policies as advised. Gifts will primarily be given in the form of a check, payable not to those requesting help but to the vendor.

The designated Committee Member will contact people on the benevolence list once a month to check the progress and then report monthly to the Committee if the person requesting help is on the list for more than 3 months.