Diaconate Fund Financial Aid Policy

Migrated from the By-Laws attachments to the Church Operations Plan per Motion 3, adopted July 26, 2026. Recorded July 30, 2026.

- **Oversight Board:** Mayflower Board of Deacons
- **Effective Date:** 1-26-22
- **Version Number:** 3

Policy Statement: It is the policy of Mayflower Church diaconate that funds donated to the diaconate be distributed responsibly to those in true need, with church members receiving highest priority, then the needs of others in our community and other ministries that minister to the needs of the poor.

Purpose: The purpose of this Financial Aid Policy is to define the process and criteria used by the diaconate to distribute the monies donated by the congregation to the diaconate fund.

Description

Each request or recommendation for assistance is considered by the diaconate. Every case is considered on its own merits.

- Church members and attendee friends are a priority.
- Financial assistance will be for essential needs such as food, utilities, medical, vehicle gas or repair, or clothing.
- Repeat help may be provided to the chronically poor, while also assisting them in identifying other available sources of help.
- The repeated need for help may require financial counseling or budget assistance before further assistance is provided.
- Financial assistance for community members not associated with Mayflower church will be normally be limited to food or gas debit cards.
- A Deacons' Fund Request form must be completed
- The individual will meet with a member of the diaconate to discuss their situation and provide us an opportunity for witness of the gospel and prayer.
- In general, a community member will be helped once a year.
- Forms of financial assistance include:
  - Bags of essential groceries
  - Food or gas gift cards
  - Payment a specific bill
  - Rarely, give undesignated money

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