

Benevolence Fund

Purpose: For Advent to have a fund that is specifically designated giving that is distributed at the discretion of the benevolence committee in order to assist parishioners and community members with needs related to shelter, food, clothing, and medical needs.

Benevolence Committee: A group of 3-4 individuals who are tasked with reviewing benevolence requests and distributing funds. Benevolence committee members must be members of Advent Anglican and in reputable standing with the parish. The committee should include 1 vestry member, 1 deacon/aspirant, 1 lay-person, and the director of parish life.

Benevolence Fund: Rather than being a budget line item, benevolence is a fund that grows through designated giving. All contributions must be given directly to the fund (rather than specific individuals) in order to remain tax-deductible. Benevolence is a gift, not a payment for service. The benevolence fund can be distributed by the benevolence committee, in compliance with the best practices and written policy. Because the benevolence fund is through donations, Advent cannot guarantee that funds will be available.

Best Practices:

- Individuals may request assistance through the benevolence fund by completing the benevolence request form (see benevolence request form)
- The anonymity of anyone requesting assistance will be preserved with the exception of the Rector, the senior staff, and the benevolence committee. Exceptions may apply if there are concerns beyond finances.
- Those requesting assistance must be willing to receive financial, family, or other appropriate counseling. The benevolence committee will not provide help to anyone who, in their estimation, will have negative or irresponsible behavior reinforced by the financial assistance.
- All distributions will be kept as written record
- Assistance such as rent, mortgage, utilities, etc. will be paid directly to the service provider rather than to the individual
- Cash/check will not be provided to individuals. Gift cards or payments directly to the service provider will be provided.
- Needs that will receive support include:
 - Shelter
 - Food
 - Clothing
 - Medical
- External verification will be required prior to larger disbursements
- Short-term emergency needs will have specific requirements, and longer-term needs will have specific requirements and limitations.
- Recipients of benevolence include:
 - Members of Advent Anglican
 - Regular attenders of Advent Anglican

- Community members with relationship to Advent Anglican
Varying levels of priority and requirements will be requested depending on the recipients relationship to Advent Anglican