

**NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH
POLICY FOR BENEVOLENCE**

“A Place Where Heaven Visits Earth”

Mission Statement:

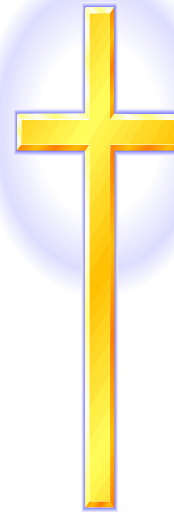
“The New Hope Baptist Church is a worshipping community committed to **educating, equipping, and empowering** believers for Christian living in the 21st century.”

CHURCH STAFF

Senior Pastor	Rev. Howard C. Earle, Jr.
Executive Pastor	Rev. Dallas Lenear
Church Administrator	Tarra Thompson
Church Administrative Assistant	Dashondra Boone
Director of Children & Youth Ministry	Quentin Henry
Director of Music	Lamar James
Custodian	Robert Phillips
Custodian	Doris Jones



**POLICY FOR
BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY
NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH**



“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

1 John 3:17-18

HOWARD C. EARLE, JR.
SENIOR PASTOR



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CHURCH CONTACT

Please refer all questions or concerns to the Church Office at (616) 452-4278.

CHURCH PROCEDURES/STATEMENT OF POLICY:

New Hope Baptist Church's Benevolence Ministry exists to glorify Christ by sharing His love in a material way with members in our congregation. Benevolence assistance will be given when it is determined that a person or a family is truly "in need" by the Benevolence Ministry committee consisting of three deacons.

"If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth." 1 John 3:17-18.

"All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of his possessions was his own, but they shared everything they had." Acts 4:32

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

Benevolence assistance is available for members of New Hope Baptist Church. Members seeking benevolent assistance must have record of membership of at least six months prior to date of request.

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Frequently Asked Questions

...but, I know that New Hope has helped non-members in the past.

Due to the response of assistance needed previously, many people were being helped and New Hope Baptist Church members who had invested in the life of the church (tithing, serving in ministry, etc) were not able to get their own financial needs met. Those occurrence have motivated us to make these changes which were effective summer 2008.

How should I proceed if I am not a member of New Hope to get financial help?

New Hope's office has a few references that may be of financial assistance to non-members of the church. You may contact the office at (616) 452-4278..



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PROCESS

An individual or family seeking benevolent assistance should take the following steps:

1. Come in to the church office to obtain and complete the benevolence application. Applications without all supporting documents (identification, notices, etc.) will not be accepted.
2. The application will be reviewed by the benevolence committee. The benevolence committee may contact you to seek more information or to schedule a meeting. During the review process the committee may contact utility companies and landlords to verify need.
3. The Benevolence Ministry is a secondary or supplemental resource. Your consultation with the committee will help you uncover other government and community resources for which you may be eligible. Those resources will be the primary ones to address your need. New Hope will make an effort to make up the difference on a case-by-case basis.

RECEIVE FUNDS

If the committee has determined that you are eligible for assistance, a check will be issued made payable to the land lord or utility company. All applicants will be informed of the status of their application within 5 working days from the receipt of the completed application.

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BENEVOLENCE NEED CATEGORIES

Rent

Utilities

(Lights, Gas, Water)

Prescription Drugs

(Medically necessary for the treatment of an illness or injury)

***Mortgage**

any requests for mortgage/foreclosure assistance will be addressed through the Acts 4:32 foreclosure relief fund as long as funds are available.

NOTE: Loans will not be made for any form of benevolence assistance.

GUIDELINES AND LIMITATIONS

- 1.0 Loans will not be made for any form of benevolence assistance.
- 2.0 All benevolence funds come from church revenues generated predominantly by congregational contributions.

GUIDELINES AND LIMITATIONS (CONT'D)

- 3.0 We offer help to members of New Hope Baptist Church. We do not provide help to transients or homeless people who are not members of New Hope Baptist Church. Rather, we refer them to local ministries that are designed to help meet the special needs of the transient or homeless.
- 4.0 Members may receive assistance **one** time in a 12 month period. There is a limit to the level of assistance provided to each household. The benevolence committee will govern the amount of assistance offered according to the limit at time of application.
- 5.0 The help we provide is primarily for housing and utilities. Items such as cell phones, pagers, and cable are not considered necessities. We cannot spend more than \$_____ on one applicant (individual or family).
- 6.0 We do not give funds directly to applicants; rather, we meet actual, verified needs. Every benevolent request must be verified in writing with eviction notices from landlords, foreclosure documents from lenders, shut-off notices from utility companies, and statements from pharmacies.

GUIDELINES AND LIMITATIONS (CONT'D)

- 7.0 Each applicant's request is reviewed by a committee of three deacons. It is during this review process that need is verified amount of assistance is determined. No funds are issued on the same day as the request is made.
- 8.0 We require applicants to comply with all directions and instructions that the Benevolence Ministry Committee gives them, or they forfeit their opportunity for assistance.
- 9.0 We keep records (on file in the Church office) for all completed cases. All cases are handled in confidence.
- 10.0 We require applicants to go through budget counseling provided by New Hope Baptist Church if any of the following conditions are met:
- 10.1 If the applicant needs more than \$500.00 worth of help.
- 10.2 If the verification process has revealed a chronic budgeting problem rather than an isolated need.