

Deacon's Fund Guidelines



God has called us to care for others by reflecting God's mercy in a fallen world.

The following verses provide the Scriptural basis: Matthew 5:7, 16 & 25:35-40; Luke 6:35-36 & 10:35-37; John 13:34-35 & 17:20-23; Acts 2:42-47 & 6:2-4; Romans 2:2-4 & 12:6-13; Galatians 6:2 & 10; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-15; 1 Timothy 5:3-16; Hebrews 13:1-3; James 2:14-17; & 1 John 3:16-18.

Deacon's Fund:

The "Deacon's Fund" has been established as means through which certain financial needs of the congregation and others in the local community may be met discreetly by funds provided by the church body through targeted offerings. This account is independent from the church budget and administered by the Deacons after collaborative evaluation of proposals including follow-up assessments, as needed, to determine the most appropriate method(s) for helping to meet needs (e.g., financial, counsel, service).

Deacon's Fund Usage:

The Deacon's Fund is used in concert with other methods (e.g., service) to help those in need. Financial assistance is provided in the following types of cases for those that are financially challenged and / or otherwise in need of help and / or encouragement based on available funds:

- a) External crisis (e.g., house fire or flooding, medical bills that cannot be paid, recent job loss). The typical goal in this category is to stop things from getting worse and provide short-term relief.
- b) Developmental need (e.g., short-term assistance as part of long-term improvement plan for independence such as someone struggling with unemployment or underemployment). This category of need typically involves an evaluation to determine a game plan especially if the person in need is not a Valley Hope church member or regular attender.
- c) Blessing those in need of support or encouragement (e.g., helping the elderly or sick with projects, housework, or yard work; single mom support such as childcare assistance or encouragement such as modest Mother's Day or Christmas gift).
- d) Other cases that fit the Biblical model for call to show mercy to those among us / our community in need (e.g., food, shelter, or clothing for those that can't afford; helping someone purchase a vehicle to get to work and take children to school if bussing is not available; sending flowers to family of someone who passed away).

You're not alone, we're in this together.

As you have needs greater than you and your immediate family can handle or as you see others with needs greater than you can help with, we invite you to complete applicable sections of the Assistance Request Form and submit to a Deacon or just reach out to a Deacon so we can determine how we can help.