

Airedale Methodist Circuit 27/31 Benevolent fund Policy

The Airedale Methodist Circuit, in keeping with its Biblical and Charitable aims, has a Benevolent Fund. The fund at present has £5,000, the maximum amount it will hold, a £1,000 is available each year to add to the fund.

Anyone finding themselves in circumstances which are detrimental to their health and well being - physical or mental, may be eligible, based on the Superintendent and Circuit Treasurers discretion, to apply to the Circuit Benevolent Fund.

The benevolence fund is intended as a source of last resort, to be used when a family or individual requesting assistance has explored all other possibilities of help - ie, family, friends, savings. It is intended to be a temporary help during a time of crisis and is a one-time gift.

Those requesting assistance must also be willing to receive financial, family, or spiritual support from their minister or a recognised body in order to prevent a repeat in circumstance. The Benevolent Fund will not provide help to anyone who, in its estimation, will have irresponsible behaviour reinforced by receiving financial assistance.

Recipients of the Benevolent Fund may be (in order of priority):

1. Church members
2. Regular attendees
3. Members of the community
4. Ministries and Christian agencies that serve people with the same needs as those which fit the criteria for assistance from the benevolence fund, but which provide services the church does not
5. Employees of the church. The Benevolence Fund will occasionally assist staff members in need.

Disbursement Criteria: Those in need of:

- Housing
- Food
- Clothing
- Medical Treatment
- Funeral expenses
- Respite

In the interests of accountability no cheques or cash shall be given directly to the recipient, but the minister or an appointed intermediary will disperse the funds appropriately.

Anyone brought to the attention of the Benevolence Fund must be willing to make full and honest disclosures as to their current financial situation.

Confidentiality will be maintained at all times

Policy Agreed on Tuesday 29th September 2015

Review Autumn 2016

