

First Christian Church of Sebring
(Disciples of Christ)

Elders and Deacons Fund 2004

This fund has been set up to help a member of our church who has a financial need beyond what they are able to pay.

The recipient must be a member of the congregation (directly, not related to)

Funds shall be provided for basic needs. (up to \$250.00)

Disbursement may be given at first request. If asked a second time, the request must be taken to the full board of Elders and Deacons and the Minister. A resource list of help will also be given. (Our funds will allow us to fulfill your request for now but here is a resource help list for you.)

The whole board of Elders and Deacons does not need to know who the recipient is or the need. Two people, either Elders or Deacons approached with a need will confer with the minister on need and then when justified, will approach the treasurer of the fund. There should be agreement.

There will be two people who will be allowed to sign checks for funds needed. Only one signature will be required at a time. One of the persons will be the Treasurer of the Fund. *Trustee*

If an emergency arises where funds can't be received right away, Elder or Deacon may use own funds in line with criteria as stated above as to amount and approval. The Elder or Deacon may be reimbursed.

Recipient should be questioned with insight and sensitivity about need in order to help clarify same.

A copy of the bank statement should be given to the board of Elders and the board of Deacons at their monthly meeting before the board meeting, thereby informing them that monies have been spent and what the balance is in the account.

If the same two people are always asking that monies be spent they should be approached regarding this and if necessary the matter be brought to the boards.

Open Letter to the Congregation of First Christian Church of Sebring

The board of Elders and Deacons has established a fund in the church. The purpose of the fund is to provide emergency assistance to members of the church who may happen to encounter problems they cannot manage. Examples of such problems may be in need for food or family essentials such as electric power problems (not providing long term support). This fund is supported by gifts from Elders and Deacons and it does not have a broad base support. To remain solvent and to be a viable force in meeting the needs it should have a continuing source of income.

We dream of a time when it will become stable and remain secure by virtue of holding securities, the earnings of which will provide the support for the internal ministry to persons or families for temporary need.

This letter is to provide general information to the congregation. Any members who would like to join the Elders and Deacons in donating money to establish and support the Fund are welcome to do so. Money for memorials could also be directed to this fund. The Treasurer will deposit all such designated gifts to this fund.

Utmost discretion and confidentiality will always be employed in dealing with persons or families with need for temporary assistance.

SAMPLE

Date:

I,-----agree to the following conditions in exchange for the acceptance of \$-----as temporary help in my financial need.

1. The check(s) will be issued in the name of the person(s) to whom money is due.
2. Since this is a revolving fund to help members of the church in need, we request a repayment plan be established to return the funds. The funds were available when you needed them, so we are sure you will want to make them available in the future for someone else.
3. The assistance is totally anonymous. Repayments should be given directly to Betty Simpson or Rev. Norton.

Betty Simpson
Trustee of Elder/Deacon Fund