



Bridgeway Church of the Nazarene
Beaufort, North Carolina

Hand-Up Compassionate Ministry

Policy

***For I was hungry, and you gave me food.
I was thirsty, and you gave me drink.
I was a stranger and you welcomed me.
I was naked and you clothed me.
I was sick and you visited me.
I was in prison and you came to me.***

***Truly, I say to you, whenever you did it
for one of the least of these, you did
it for Me”***

Jesus (Matthew 25)

Who We Are

Bridgeway is a community of hope, faith, and love who claims and professes “Jesus is Lord!” in all that we say and do. More than words, we believe in action – and we are a Missional People. That means we believe in **“going to all the world and making Christlike followers in the nations.”** We are local, regional, and global as a church body, with missionaries, clinics, training facilities, and churches in 160 world areas. Our belief is that we are **“Better Together”** and we surely are. You and your family are always invited to join us on Sunday mornings at 10:00 am for Worship and Kid’s Church, and at 6:15 pm on Wednesday evenings for our Colony Gatherings. On Sundays we are here at our primary sending hub, the church, as we gather, serve, and worship together as one body. On Wednesdays we meet all over Carteret County (DownEast, Beaufort, Morehead City, and Newport).

We have a rich, diverse, powerful history rooted in a tremendous movement of God and the Holy Spirit. The Church of the Nazarene was birthed in revival and brought together 15 various faith-families into one assembly of men, women, teenagers, and children.

Purpose of Hand-Up Compassionate Ministry

To be a genuine and sincere component of our Outreach Ministries, as we do have a great compassion and love for all people who God has created. Additionally, we seek to spread our passion and God’s love to all, including those who are in a “place of need.”

The purpose of this ministry is 3-fold in nature and scope:

- To educate and train, with God’s help and to the best of our ability, people for the purpose of biblically-sound financial concepts. The launch of this part is September 2015 as we embark on a new class, “Budgeting 101: Basic Financial Concepts.”
- To provide pastoral and special counseling, on a case-by-case basis, as financial issues impact families, people, and others. *Make no mistake, our financial health is directly related to our spiritual health.* We have had and continue to offer counseling to those who are in need, in a confidential and Christlike setting.

- To assist, as necessary and as approved, basic physical needs within the church body (members and attendees) and this community at large, as we have resources to do so. The key here are the by 2 “A” words: **availability** and **accountability**.

Availability

The finances of the church are for the “building up of God’s Kingdom” and for the support of the ministries that work to fulfill this vision. Our first and foremost priority is to honor the commitments that we have made and to be a good steward of what God gives us, to continue in His holy and life-giving work.

The church is primarily a spiritual organism – brought together to encourage, exhort, and proclaim that **“Jesus Christ is Lord.”**

Within our vision, however, we also believe the church cannot turn a blind-eye to the needs of people who are facing basic life challenges and who may need temporary assistance and relief. Our love and concern for others is anchored into the love the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit has for each member of His creation. Jesus loved His Church so much, He gave His life for it.

At the same time, church finances for the purpose of extending compassion and helping are based on availability and the generous hearts of many who feel led to give to this benevolent compassionate fund. If we have no funds, or limited funds for this purpose at any time, we are either unable to help or unable to meet the entire need.

Please understand this.

Our assistance is linked to availability (at that time).

In other situations, where we may detect abuse or repeated behavior and pattern, we reserve the right to decline to assist. Our counsel will come from God, through prayer and seeking.

Accountability

When God’s monies and church funds are used in any manner, accountability will be ensured at various levels.

Yet, within this accountability paradigm, we also acknowledge the requests for assistance can have short turnaround time. That is, a majority are immediate or imminent in nature.

That does not impact accountability, it just means that we do have a Team set-up in order to address, answer, and respond to this need.

All financial assistance given will be at the discretion of the **Hand-Up/Compassionate Ministry Team**, dependent on the available finances in this fund, as mentioned in the previous section.

This is the make-up of our Team:

- Lead Pastor (for spiritual oversight).
- The Hand-Up/Compassionate Ministry Director.
- 1 Board Member from the Church, **or**, a Member of the Financial Team.

The **Hand-Up/Compassionate Ministry Director** will have access to funds (i.e. the account and checkbook) and will report quarterly to the Pastor and Church Treasurer on the contributions and expenses.

What Help Might Look Like

When a church member, attendee, or someone from the community approaches Bridgeway or any of our Team Members and requests help or assistance, this is generally the process that will follow:

1. They will be welcomed, prayed for, and set at ease.
2. Informed of Bridgeway's purpose and vision.
3. Inquired of specific details concerning the Request, and what has perhaps occurred leading them to this spot.
4. Asked about current work/job responsibilities and whether or not they have sought assistance from other churches and/or community outreach organizations. [Note: We do reserve the right to contact others to determine if assistance was granted or denied, prior to a decision].
5. We will present them with a Bridgeway Application for Financial Assistance, to be filled out and completed in person. [In the event they cannot read or write, we will help them complete this document].

6. We will make it clear that Bridgeway's Policy is not to give cash or write a check to any person. Rather, our assistance will always be directly to: *Loan Organizations; Landlords; Electric Company or Electric Co-Ops* depending on area; *Water/Sewer Utilities; HVAC or Heating Oil Contractors; or Food and Grocery Stores.*
7. We will explain that our Policy requires 48 hours for an answer and response. This allows Bridgeway to go through proper channels of communication and respond accordingly, understanding schedule variances and life commitments of our leaders and people.

In circumstances that are more urgent, we will explain that we will do our very best to expedite but no guarantees can or will be made.

Policy Requirements (Short-List)

- No cash or checks will be written directly to a person (as stipulated in prior section).
- Each person may apply and receive assistance no more than twice per calendar year.
- Regardless of whether it is once or twice or more, no assistance totaling more than \$250.00/per household, per calendar year, will be given out.
- Bridgeway does not "loan" money; no loans will be considered. We give and assist with no expectation of it being paid back.
- The Application must be filled out and retained, for financial purposes.
- 48-Hour Turnaround is our standard norm.
- In situations of food need, we will always try and give people (and families) something to eat. We will also provide requestors with information of the wide array of community feeding and food programs, and their respective schedules.
- Each person who is not affiliated or an attendee or member will receive information about our church, history, and vision, and they will be invited. Our belief in doing this is helping those who need help – recognize that life is better when together in Christian unity and fellowship.

Please note:

You may read the Policy online, but pages 6 and 7 must be printed, completed, and submitted before a decision is made.

Hand-Up/Compassionate Assistance Application

CONFIDENTIAL

This form will not be shared or duplicated, and will not be seen by anyone who is not in the decision-making process.

Name(s):

Date:

Complete Address:

Phone #'s:

Email Address:

Relationship (if one) to Bridgeway Church:

Family Composition:

Married (check one): Yes No

Children at home: Yes No

How many: _____

Other Information:

Please describe briefly how you learned or were referred:

Our limit in assistance is **\$250.00/year** total. We will help **twice per year** (but not more than the \$250.00 total per year) maximum so that we might be able to help others. Please tell us how much you are requesting and what the need is for (please be very specific):

Amount Requested: \$ _____

Reason:

Have you sought other assistance for this need?
If yes, please list with what other churches or organizations.

Please help us help you with other needs you may have by answering the following:

Your household monthly income: \$ _____

Monthly Expenses (mortgage/rent, utilities, insurance, credit cards, food, etc.): \$ _____

How much is owed on your credit cards: \$ _____

How much do you currently have in:

Cash \$ _____

Checking \$ _____

Savings \$ _____

Is there anything else you would like to share:

Thank you for filling out our Application and for your honest answers. We commit to helping you in whatever ways/means we can. We will also do our very best to get a timely response to you within 48 hours. You will receive a response within 48 hours providing this Application is completed and we have all the information needed to render a decision. Our prayers are with you in this time, and we will keep you posted on other matters of assistance and counseling, as provided.

Your Printed Name: _____

Your Signature: _____

Today's Date: _____ / _____ / _____
Month Date Year

Bridgeway Use Only

Initials of Bridgeway Director: _____

Date Received: _____