

# Bridgeway Church



## Assistance, Financial, and Helps Manual

(Revised: January 2020)

## The Scriptural Basis for Assistance and Love:

***“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)

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Our desire at Bridgeway Church is to be a faith community that always seeks to lift up the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ and to fulfill His Great Commission, as given in Matthew 28: ***“to go into all the world and make disciples of all people...”***

Over the course of the past 18 years, since Bridgeway Church was formed and launched, this church community has been exceptionally generous and benevolent toward others who are a part of this church community, those in this area, and people/families all along the Crystal Coast.

Our Love Fund and Compassionate Team, led by a Director who oversees the goals and objectives of this ministry, is a godly and caring group who pray regularly and have made themselves available for this team. We are grateful for their willingness to be a part and serve.

## Who We Are

Bridgeway Church is a community of faith, hope, and love. We proclaim and profess **“Jesus is Lord!”** in all we say and do. More than words, we believe in action and we are a Missional people. We are local, regional, and global as a church body, with missionaries, clinics, training facilities, and churches in 162 world areas...spanning the entire globe.

Our belief is that we are **“better together”** and we surely are. You and your family are invited to join us, to be a part of what God is doing here, each Sunday @ 10:00 am. We do have Nursery and Toddler Care, along with Kid's Church, that runs parallel with Worship. Check-Ins begin @ 9:40 am leading into our Worship Celebration. Each Wednesday, our life group ministry, The Colonies, meet in 4 locations along the Crystal Coast. They provide a real opportunity for connection, discipleship, fellowship, and sharing. 6:15 pm in the following locales: DownEast; Beaufort; Morehead City; and Newport.

We have a rich, diverse, and 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 and groups into one assembly of people from every background, class, and region across the United States.

## Purpose of our Love and Assistance Fund

To be a genuine and sincere component of our Outreach Ministries, as our mandate is from the Lord Himself to do what we can, in action, to assist, help, and extend love to others. Additionally, we seek to spread the Good News and passion to all, including those in a place of need.

The purpose of this ministry and it's function are 3-fold in nature and scope:

1. To educate and train, with God's help and to the best of our ability, people for the purpose of adopting biblically sound financial and life concepts.

2. To provide pastoral and special counseling, on a case-by-case basis, as financial issues and troubles impact people and families. It is very true that financial health and spiritual health are often deeply linked and related. We have had, and continue to offer, counseling to those who are in need in a confidential and Christ-like setting.
3. To assist, as needed and approved, basic physical needs within the church body (members and attendees) and the community at large, as we have available resources to do so. The two critical words in this are: availability and accountability, and are discussed in more detail below:

### Availability

The finances and monies of the church are for the “building up of God's Kingdom” and for the support of the ministries that work to fulfill our Mission and 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 to us in order that we can continue in His life-giving work.

The church is primarily a spiritual people, a living body, brought together to encourage, edify, exhort, proclaim, and live “Jesus Christ is Lord!”

Within our ministry, we also believe the church cannot turn a blind-eye and a deaf-ear to the needs of people who are facing basic and real life challenges; who may need temporary assistance and relief. Our love and concern for others is anchored in the love of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Who loves each and every member of His creation.

At the same time, church finances and monies for the purpose of this compassion effort, and helping people, are based on availability and the generous hearts of many who give and who feel led to give to this cause. If we have limited or no funds, we are either unable to help or unable to help meet the full need.

Please understand: Our ability to assist is linked to availability, at that time.

### Accountability

When God's monies and the church funds are used or spent in any manner, accountability has to be ensured.

Within this paradigm, we do acknowledge the requests for assistance and help can have a very short window of time to address/respond. Many are imminent in nature.

That does not impact accountability; it just means that we do have a Team organized to address, answer, and respond in a quick turnaround.

Any/All financial assistance given will be at the discretion of the Love and Compassionate Team, communicated through the Director, which is fully dependent on the available finances in the fund, at that particular time.

#### The Team consists of:

- The Lead Pastor (for directional, spiritual oversight, in accordance with Manual)
- The Director of this Ministry
- Church Board Members or Members in good standing who are familiar and gifted in this realm of ministry (3 – 4 people).

### **What Help Will Look Like**

When a church member, attendee, or someone from the community at large approaches or contacts Bridgeway Church, or our Director, for a request of assistance or help, this is generally the process that will follow:

1. They will be welcomed, prayed for, and set at ease.
2. They will be informed (in short discussion) of our Policy which is communicated here.
3. They will be given a hard copy or told of the website link, where they can access this Policy directly.
4. They will be asked about details concerning the request and what has occurred.
5. They will be asked about current employment and income.

6. They will be asked if they have sought other means of assistance through church, civic, and government organizations. [Note: Bridgeway Church reserves the right to contact others to verify if any assistance was denied or granted, prior to a decision].
7. We will present them with an Application for Assistance, or they will be told how to access/print one online. They will be told that this is needed in order to move the process along, for consideration.
8. We will make clear that it is not our Policy to give cash or write a check to any person. Rather, assistance will be direct to loan organizations, rental companies, landlords, utility outfits, insurance organizations, etc.
9. While emergencies do arise and happen from time to time, we do ask for **48 hours** to conduct our protocols, render a decision, communicate the response, and have funds available (if/when approved). Our team does its best to expedite, but no guarantees can/will be made.

## **Policy Guidelines**

(Short List)

- No cash or check will be written directly to any individual/person.
- Each person may apply and receive assistance no more than twice per calendar year.
- No assistance more than **\$500.00 per calendar year**, per household, will be given out.
- Bridgeway Church does not loan money, and no loans are considered. We assist and give with no exception of being paid back. As the Lord leads and as things turn around, we do encourage you to give back. It is amazing how the Lord can lead those needing help to help others in His time. We wouldn't want anyone to miss out on this blessing.
- The Application must be completed and retained, for accountability purposes.
- 48 Hour turnaround is our standard goal.
- In situations of food or other life item needs: We will always try and give people, and families, something to eat. We will also provide those requesting information on the wide array of community feeding programs and their respective schedules.
- Each person/family who is not affiliated with our church will be given information on our church and will be invited.

- We truly hope that each person needing assistance will prayerfully and seriously consider registering for our Budgeting 101 Class. We offer this as needs arise and have custom-tailored it to meet practical needs while offering biblically sound financial concepts.
  - In cases of deeply spiritual matters, we do hope those requesting any assistance/help will also consider counseling, which is offered through our church and pastoral staff.
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Please note: You may read this policy online, but pages #8 and #9 must be printed off, filled out, completed, and submitted. Thank you for your understanding and help.

## Application for Assistance/Financial/Help

This form will not be duplicated or shared. It will not be viewable to anyone who is not on the Team or Staff, who is not involved in the decision-making process. Your privacy will be protected.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone#: Home: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Cell: (     ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to Bridgeway Church, if any:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Family Status:

Married                     Yes     No

Children at home         Yes     No (if Yes, how many: \_\_\_)

Please describe in a sentence or two: How were you referred to our ministry?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Our limit in assistance is \$500.00/calendar year. Please tell us how much you are requesting/seeking and what the need is for. Please be specific.

Amount of your request: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Reason:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Have you sought other assistance for this need?  Yes  No  
If yes, please list what other churches or organizations you have applied with:

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Please help us better understand your needs by answering the following:

Your household monthly income: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly expenses (mortgage/rent, utilities, insurance, credit cards): \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you owe, total, on credit cards and credit acct's: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

How much do you currently have in:

Cash: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Checking: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Savings: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Is there anything else you would like to share?

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Thank you for filling out our Application. We commit to helping you in whatever ways we can. We will also do our very best to get a timely response to you. 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 season and time, and we will keep you updated on other matters of assistance as provided.

Your printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Today's Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Date Year

**Bridgeway Church use only:**

Initials of Director: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Received: \_\_\_\_\_