

Benevolence Team Description

Summary:

The primary mission of the benevolence team is to support the mission of Westlake. We want to **help people become fully devoted followers of Christ** by letting the church meet some physical or financial need that they have. Instead of attempting to find a way of connecting with people who apply to the church, the church will work within already established relationships that exist between the church (that is, the people who call Westlake their home church) and people who are not yet followers of Christ.

How it will work:

- Short applications (see attached) will be submitted primarily through small groups who have identified a need and already have an established relationship. For example, a neighbor or coworker who does not yet have a church home.
- Applications will be available on the Westlake website and the church office. The system will be described during leadership team meetings, small group kick-off meetings, congregational meetings and potentially on Sunday mornings.
- Once the need has been supplied, the person(s) who are acting as the Church, will provide feedback to the benevolence team.

Some Stipulations:

- No cash will be handed out. Rather, whatever is needed (rent, car payments, utility bills, clothes, food) will be purchased by the church directly or reimbursed to the purchaser with a valid receipt.
- These will not be anonymous payments. The idea is that the person you are helping will be drawn into a relationship that leads to them becoming fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ.
- The benevolence team will consider each application as it is submitted. Please allow at least 2 weeks for the submission to be acted upon. Please remember that all people involved are volunteers and benevolence work happens during after-work hours.
- Church staff are only peripherally involved and will not be asked to help make decisions or write checks without going through the benevolence team.
- We encourage people to attend Financial Peace University (FPU), but we will not pay the cost of FPU.
- The benevolence team will follow up on all disbursements in 6 months and one year in an attempt to determine if the program is succeeding in fulfilling the mission of Westlake.

Benevolence Distribution Request

Westlake member that is completing request:

What is the best way to contact you?

Email: _____

Text: _____

Tel: _____

If associated with a small group, please list members and leader

Describe your relationship with the beneficiary

Describe the need, including the dollar amount requested

What plans do you have for leading this person or family to being fully devoted to Jesus Christ?

Are you willing to share this story ?

- In a small group kickoff meeting?**
- In a leadership team meeting?**
- In a Sunday sermon interview?**

Is there anything else you would like to share?
