

Our Sharing Fund Policy

The follow Sharing Fund Policy provides the purpose, rationale, and procedures for providing mutual aid to members and families of the Mennonite Church of the Servant. The Policy was adopted and affirmed December, 4, 2005 at the Church Life Meeting. Paragraph C.1. was modified and affirmed July 24, 2011 at the Church Life Meeting.

- A. The **purpose** of the sharing fund is to assist MCS participants in material need with integrity and accountability.
- B. The **rationale** for the sharing fund is:
- To encourage discipleship to Christ through material sharing and fiscal responsibility,
 - To encourage growth in accountability and contribution (material or otherwise) by the church and for the church,
 - To encourage joyful giving and receiving,
 - To welcome all, regardless of ability to contribute financially.
- C. The **procedures** or guidelines are as follows:
1. To request financial assistance people should contact one or more members of the Church Council (excepting the pastor and the treasurer). If the request is approved by at least two members of the Church Council (excepting the pastor and the treasurer), the treasurer will make the funds available. If there is a conflict of interest, the request should be referred to a different member of the Church Council.
 2. If the amount is more than \$500.00, the decision should be processed by the Church Council and, if necessary, by the congregation as a whole.
 3. Ordinarily the Sharing Fund should not be accessed more than once yearly by an individual.
 4. If there is evidence of ongoing or otherwise complicated need, Shepherds should seek members of MCS to walk with the requester in support and accountability with the goal of attaining financial independence/sustainability. These people will try to work with the requester:
 - To determine the meeting time,
 - To assess the need of the requester (the amount, income and expenses, potential for further need, etc),
 - To discuss options, give advice, suggest ideas,
 - To formulate reasonable goal,
 - To give guidance on steps to achieving the goals,
 - To establish, if needed, prerequisites for financial assistance (for example, evidence of credit counseling, job search, volunteer work, etc.)
 - To document their interaction with the requester and report to the Shepherds regarding the discipleship or accountability process.