

Policy for distributing financial gifts to people in need

aka "Helping Hands Fund"

Galileo Church • approved by Leadership Team • January 2016

Because the people of our compassionate God sometimes find themselves in need of financial sustenance for basic needs, and because God has made us stewards of a large pool of financial resources, we want to help each other the best that we can. The leadership team has discerned that the church's resources can be shared with individuals in the church, according to the following guidelines:

1. Helping Hands money is for co-conspirators and friends of Galileo Church.
2. Requests for Helping Hands money can be made to the pastor or any of the leadership team members. Whoever receives the original request should take it to one other person – the pastor, if the original request was not made to the pastor; or one of the leadership team members, if the original request was made to the pastor. If those two agree, they should ask the treasurer to write a check according to their instructions or use the church credit card to pay the bill. If agreement cannot be reached about the necessity or wisdom of the request, further consult with the whole leadership team should be sought.
3. Whenever possible, Helping Hands payments should be made for specific expenses: to the utility company, the landlord, the bank, the doctor, or whatever entity to whom payment is due. If that is not possible, a check may under special circumstances be written to the individual requesting help.
4. An individual or family may receive Helping Hands money up to twice per year, totaling no more than \$500 per year, except under special circumstances that the whole leadership team approves.
5. Helping Hands requests and disbursements are completely confidential; only the pastor and the treasurer are privy to the whole list.
6. Helping Hands funds are replenished by the generous gifts of Galileo co-conspirators and friends. Occasional requests for more funding can be made through our regular communication.
7. We funnel proceeds from our Amazon Smile account to Helping Hands.
8. The Helping Hands fund is not for lending money, and recipients should not be encouraged to pay back their gifts. If, however, recipients are able to replenish the fund in the future, thus paying it forward, thanks be to God.

*** UPDATE, May 2016: Where this document says "pastor," please read "lead evangelist." Where this document says "leadership team," please read "missional logistics team."

