

GUIDELINES

For

DEACON – MERCY MINISTRY

At

NEW COMMUNITY CHURCH

January 2022



New Community Church Deacon Mercy Ministry

Guidelines

Introduction:

In his book, **The New Testament Deacon**, Alexander Strauch makes clear that deacons are the agents of mercy in Christ's church. "They help the poor, the jobless, the sick, the widowed, the elderly, the homeless, the shut-in, the refugees, and the disabled. They counsel and guide people. They comfort, protect, and encourage people, and help to meet their needs." The deacons of New Community Church (NCC) have undertaken a commitment to be agents of mercy in our church, leaving no one in need unattended. The purpose of this document is to provide a set of guidelines associated with the NCC Deacon's Mercy Ministry.

Objective/Purpose:

Provide a highly valued congregational care ministry founded on being agents of mercy to all who are in need.

Mission Statement:

"Under leadership of the deacons, the Mercy Ministry of New Community Church expresses Christ-like compassion, kindness, mercy and love toward those of the church body experiencing personal hardship. As disciples of Christ, we humbly seek to utilize the resources that God has abundantly supplied to meet their needs. In doing so, our ultimate goal is to bring glory and honor to God for the opportunity we have to comfort, protect and encourage those in need."

Scriptural References Supporting the Mercy Ministry:

"My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you." John 15:12

"Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful" Luke 6:36

"If you have the gift of showing mercy, do it cheerfully." Romans 12:8d The New Translation
"But God, being rich in mercy... even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ" Ephesians 2:4a,5a.



Key Tenets:

There are several fundamental tenets that reflect the operation of the Mercy Ministry and they are as follows:

- The initial ministry focus is on that of our NCC church family.
- NCC Deacons provide overall ministry leadership addressing core needs as well as function as facilitators in recommending approaches to meeting special needs, i.e. benevolent, spiritual/teaching, special prayer requests, etc.
- Privacy is critical to all that takes place in the ministry.
- Personal interface with those in need is very important, recognizing both the individual and the need. The Women's Ministry will be of service in areas where the need requires a feminine touch or where a personal relationship exists. When interfacing with women, use of a deacon husband/wife team: two women from Women's Ministry or two deacons is recommended.
- The Women's Ministry will counsel with the deacons on certain specific needs.
- Flexibility in the use of some of the basic tools provided for meeting basic and special needs is very important to the operation of the ministry.

Who the Ministry Serves:

The ministry addresses but is not limited to the following needs:

- Single parents
- Widows/widowers
- Immigrants
- Families with disabled children
- Families with troubled children
- Disabled adults
- Shut-ins
- Those with chronic illnesses (cancer, renal failure, etc. who are house-bound or undergoing care)
- Elderly
- Those with special needs



Support Resources:

The Mercy Ministry is supported by a group of those from our church family representing a set of capabilities for handling specific Mercy Ministry needs as they arise. The following types of needs are envisioned:

- Practical Needs
 - Rides
 - Yard work
 - Child care
 - Handyman
 - Laundering/light housekeeping, cooking in home
 - Grocery shopping, running errands
 - Clothing donation
- Administrative Needs
 - Financial counseling, budgeting
 - Asset management
 - Tax filing
 - Resume preparation
 - Real estate
 - Home organizing
 - Job search
 - Tutoring

Liaison Team:

Requests for assistance will come into the liaison team or a team member. The team/team members will facilitate providing a recommended approach through use of the support group and/or to meeting special needs...benevolent, spiritual/teaching, special prayer requests, etc. Again, flexibility is a key element as the range of needs can run the gamut and the screening is often founded on personal experience/judgment and our Christian faith. At this time, the liaison team consists of the following NCC church members:

- Bill Toole
- Joe Pesnell
- Janet Smith



Other Ministry Involvement:

The Mercy Ministry will draw upon the support of other NCC ministries as it fulfills its Mission Statement. These ministries will include but not be limited to the Men's and Women's Ministries, Ascend Youth Ministry, Merge College Ministry and Foundations Family Ministry.

Benevolent Funding Application:

It is understood that funding from the NCC Benevolent Fund will be made available for use in support of certain needs as determined by the Mercy Ministry Liaison Team and in conjunction with the deacon overseeing the Benevolent Fund.

