

CR5 - Benevolences Policy

Benevolence is defined as those monies which are given as free will offerings, donations, designated appeals, or through regular giving, to benefit persons or organizations or causes outside BLC membership.

Benevolences consists of those monies specifically designated for organizations and individuals outside BLC membership, including other Lutheran bodies; international, national, state, regional, metropolitan, and local organizations; and funds for needy families and individuals.

Council members, the Pastor, and other BLC leaders may call the attention of the congregation to worthy organizations needing support. Other Benevolence contributions will be authorized by the Congregation when it approves the annual budget, which includes a number of specified benevolence decisions. Beyond budgeted benevolences and the gifts that are made by individual congregation members and friends, the Council may approve BLC participation and support for the conduct of other benevolence appeals and offerings, including benevolence fund-raisers. Benevolence appeals and fund-raisers will be consistent with other BLC policies and priorities.

The Council shall consider benevolence appeals on the basis of a report and recommendation by an appropriate member or members of the Council.

The Council shall consider appeals proposed by the national church or our synod on their merits, and if approved, shall be recommended to the congregation at a time that is consistent with our interests and priorities.

Emergency situations appeals (e.g., for disaster relief) shall be dealt with as the need arises and may be approved by the president and the pastor, subject to review by the Council.

All other appeals including those of local and metro area social ministry organizations and other worthy causes shall be considered on their merits, and if approved, shall be recommended to the congregation, provided that generally, there will be support for no more than one "general" appeal per quarter of each year. The regular exception to this guidance is that several optional gifting opportunities are provided to members of the congregation in the Thanksgiving through Christmas time frame.

In addition to special appeals, our goal is for the benevolence proportion of the total BLC budget to be at least 15 percent per year.