

Pittsburgh Chinese Church Oakland

Samaritan Fund Policy

Internal Guidelines

- I. The Samaritan Fund (the “Fund”) of Pittsburgh Chinese Church Oakland (“PCCO”) is established for the purpose of providing a one-time financial assistance to individuals or organizations in a short term crisis. Short term is defined as a period of six months or less.
- II. The Fund is replenished by individual tax-deductible offerings only with no contribution from the church’s General Fund. The Fund is accumulated from year-to-year and does not expire at the end of each year.
- III. Donors may recommend beneficiaries of the Fund. However, such suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of the Fund is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of the PCCO Council (“Council). PCCO cannot accept, and will return, any checks written to PCCO or cash that is specifically designated to an individual.
- IV. When a Council member deems a particular need worthy of assistance from the Fund, he shall present the merits to the Council with documentation of facts and a proposed dollar amount. The Council shall assess and make a decision based on the nature of the need being brought to its attention in consideration of the following factors:
 - a. Eligibility of assistance from the Fund is not limited to PCCO members. However, when funds are limited or with several concurrent needs, PCCO members should be given priority consideration.
 - b. The person or organization must be able to demonstrate that other resources have been expended or are not available in a timely manner.
 - c. The person or organization must be in good standing in the church or community and there is no reason to believe that the monies granted from the Fund would be used for illegitimate and illegal purposes. The Council member presenting the request should have a reasonable understanding of the lifestyle of the needy individual or ministry style of the organization.
 - d. Monies granted are primarily for health, education, and direct living costs in the case of individuals. Monies for organizations are to be used to sustain its basic operations.
- V. PCCO shall not use the Fund for cases that present long-term crises. In the event that the Council is aware of a long-term need, the Council may elect to present a one-time gift from the Fund and/or make a special announcement to the PCCO congregation for personal participation. Long term is defined as a period of greater than six months.
- VI. Repayment to the Fund is not required. Those who wish to repay the church can make offerings to the General and/or Samaritan Funds.