

## How does the Mercy Fund Work?

After completing and submitting the Mercy Fund Application for assistance, a team of two members of the Mercy Board, who are committed to maintaining confidentiality, will be assigned to review the request, meet with the person or family in need, and propose the best avenue of assistance.

When assistance for legitimate need is approved, the bills will be paid directly to the creditor. Additionally, recognizing there is a spiritual dimension to all trials, prayer, encouragement and instruction may be offered as part of the assistance provided.



## How Does One Apply?

Benevolence assistance is initiated by completing a Mercy Fund Application for Assistance form. Forms are available from a pastor or Ruling Elder. The application can either be turned in to the church office or returned to any pastor.

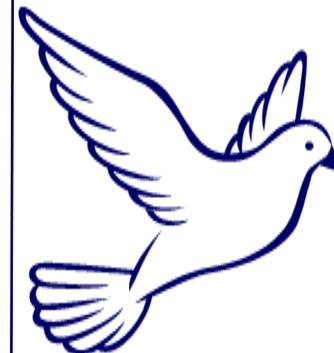
## Who Administrates the Fund?

A subset of the Diaconal Finance Committee, the Mercy Board will be comprised of a member of the finance committee, a member of the mission committee and a Ruling Elder or Pastor.



3800 Judson Road  
Longview TX 75605  
Ph 903-234-0032  
[www.epclongview.org](http://www.epclongview.org)  
[info@epclongview.org](mailto:info@epclongview.org)

## Mercy Fund



In Essentials, Unity • In Non-Essentials, Liberty

In All Things, Charity

## Why a Mercy Fund?

The Mercy Fund is EPCL's response to commands such as Galatians 6:10 which says: *"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (See also Acts 6:3 and 1 Timothy 5:3,16). Our prayer is that through this fund God will work in and through us as we come alongside of a brother/sister who is facing significant financial hardship by providing financial assistance for short-term, emergency situations in addition to unforeseen circumstances that may be long-term.



## How is the Mercy Fund Supported?

The Mercy Fund is financed through designated giving. This giving may come in the form of special offerings or individual contributions. Gifts intended for this fund may be designated and received at any time. Members are not encouraged to give to the Mercy Fund in lieu of tithing to the general church budget, but to view this as an 'over and above' or an 'offering' to the LORD and His work in our midst. All assistance will depend on need as well as resources available to service the need. All gifts are tax deductible with no designated recipient.



## Why a Separate Fund?

Having a fund for giving over and above a tithe allows for the following:

- Designating Giving. When tithing we offer our financial resources to the working of the church in general, to be administrated as seen fit by the Session through our General Budget. Designated giving within the General Budget is discouraged as it has the potential for dissension within the church at large.
- Growth. Having a designated fund allows the fund to grow beyond what may have been allocated if this was a line item in the General Budget.
- Confidentiality. General Budget items go through a larger committee for distribution. The Mercy Fund is structured in such as way as to increase confidentiality for those seeking assistance.
- Opportunity. The Mercy Fund will allow for assistance in situations not specifically addressed by those sections of the Mission Budget which currently allocates monies to persons in need.