



First United Methodist Church (FUMC) – Cave City, in keeping with its Biblical and charitable goals, has established The Goods Ministry to assist persons in our community in financial need. Donors may suggest beneficiaries; however, such suggestions shall be deemed advisory rather than mandatory in nature. The administration of acquisition and all disbursements is subject to the exclusive control and discretion of The Goods Ministry Committee, made up of the Acquisition Manager, Distribution Manager, and the pastor of FUMC-Cave City.

All gifts, whether monetary or donation of goods to be redistributed in the community, are gifts to the First United Methodist Church – Cave City. Checks should be made payable to FUMC-Cave City, with a notation that the funds are to be placed in The Goods Ministry. A letter will be given to each donor for tax purposes by the Acquisition Manager of The Goods Ministry.

Purpose: People in need matter to God. No individual in the community (Cave City and surrounding areas) who is willing to receive help should be without basic needs. As an integral part of the ministry of our church, The Goods Ministry provides material needs to individuals or families who are experiencing financial hardship.

As believers in Jesus Christ, we are commanded in the Bible to care for each other.

"Bear one another's burden and thus fulfill the law of Christ and give to the people in need." Galatians 6:2.

"Whoever has the world's goods and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the love of God abide in him?" 1 John 3:17.

GUIDELINES

These guidelines should be applied in determining need and eligibility for assistance from FUMC-Cave City's The Goods Ministry.

A. Determining Recipients

- i. The need of an individual or family may come to The Goods Ministry's attention during the course of ministry, or by referral from a third party.
- ii. Family shelters in the area have a working relationship with the Goods Ministry. Referrals from these partners will be given priority service.

B. Eligibility

- i. All assistance, including reporting, shall comply with the requirements of the Income Tax Act and Regulations. The assistance must be charitable under the law.
- ii. Needs that will be considered for assistance include:
 - a. An accident that results in financial needs.
 - b. An unavoidable unemployment situation.
 - c. Other situations of demonstrated need.
- iii. When assistance is provided, consideration should also be given to meeting the spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and other needs of the receiving party. This will be done in consultation with the pastor and/or other qualified professionals.
- iv. Duration of charity
 - a. The Goods Ministry will provide assistance for a specific need that is not expected to involve a long-term commitment.
 - b. When a major need arises, other possible sources for assistance will be explored with the party in need (e.g., other community and/or government programs).

C. Documentation

- i. Name of recipient, whether organization or person.
- ii. Specific goods distributed to each recipient will be noted by the Distribution Manager.
- iii. Any relationship between the recipient and other members, officers, trustees, or directors of the church will be recorded.
- iv. All donations and acquisitions from Sharing The Goods Warehouse will be documented by the Acquisition Manager. Inventory supply will be coordinated by the Acquisition and Distribution Managers.