



# Our Sharing Fund Policy

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*The following Sharing Fund Policy provides the purpose, rationale, and procedures for providing mutual aid to members and families of the Mennonite Church of the Servant. The Policy was adopted and affirmed June 15, 2014 at the Church Life Meeting.*

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- A. The **purpose** of the sharing fund is to assist MCS participants in material need with integrity and accountability.
- B. The **rationale** for the sharing fund is:
- To encourage discipleship to Christ through material sharing and fiscal responsibility,
  - To encourage growth in accountability and contribution (material or otherwise) by the church and for the church,
  - To encourage joyful giving and receiving,
  - To welcome all, regardless of ability to contribute financially.
- C. The **procedures** or guidelines are as follows:
1. To request financial assistance people should contact one of the Shepherds. If the request is approved by at least two Shepherds, the treasurer will make the funds available. If one of the Shepherds has a conflict of interest, the request should be referred to a different Shepherd.
  2. If the cumulative requests exceed more than \$400.00 per year, the decision to grant more will be made by all the Shepherds and one member of the Church Council.
  3. If there is evidence of ongoing or otherwise complicated need, Shepherds should seek members of MCS to walk with the requester in support and accountability with the goal of attaining financial independence/sustainability. These people will try to work with the requester:
    - To determine the meeting time,
    - To assess the need of the requester (the amount, income and expenses, potential for further need, etc),
    - To discuss options, give advice, suggest ideas,
    - To formulate reasonable goals,
    - To give guidance on steps to achieving the goals,
    - To establish, if needed, prerequisites for financial assistance (for example, evidence of credit counseling, job search, volunteer work, etc.)
    - To document their interaction with the requester and report to the Shepherds regarding the discipleship or accountability process.