



**Fountain Street Church
Social Action Committee
Procedures & Policies
Regarding Grant Disbursements**

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Structure for Decisions on Funding for Social Ministry

1. Decisions on funding for Social Ministry will be made by the Social Action Committee, (SAC), according to procedures established and reviewed from time to time. Proposals may be made by members of the SAC and the congregation for specific projects or for general contributions to existing community, national, or international agencies.
2. Regular decisions on funding of such proposals will be made two times per year: April/May and October/November.
3. The congregation will be advised of the opportunity to make proposals to the SAC for each decision date, and will be promptly advised of funding decisions made.
4. In order to be considered for SAC funding, organizations will be required to complete and submit a formal SAC Grant Application.
5. Emergency or time-sensitive needs which arise between these decision dates may be considered at additional meetings. These decisions will be subject to limits on amounts to be determined from time to time. These will be one-time grants unless specific conditions are adopted and met, allowing consideration for renewed funding.
6. Members of the SAC may make proposals for funding and may freely advocate for their own or others' proposals. They must make clear any involvement or interest they have in the proposals being considered by the Committee.
7. Voting by the Committee on proposals will be conducted by secret ballot by a process which will result in a ranking of proposals. The specific process may be revised from time to time.

Criteria for Funding Projects and Agencies:

1. The intended beneficiaries of the grant must be outside the church community. Direct recipients may be church members, but only if the funds allow them to work for the larger community.
2. Before a grant is made, other possible sources of funding for the project or agency will be considered:
 - Describe the sources of major funding.
 - Would making our grant a matching grant be possible and helpful?
 - Could the project be partly supported by fundraising activities, (i.e. events, sales etc.) by the sponsoring group?
3. First priority should be given to projects or agencies related to any action focus adopted by the SAC/congregation for the year.
4. Second priority should be given to projects or agencies with which members of the congregation are actively involved.
5. Third priority will be given to projects or agencies which have been funded in the past and which meet needs of great concern to the congregation.
6. Projects or agencies which have the potential to divide the congregation to a significant extent because they involve controversial issues should be decided carefully. Possible approaches may include:
 - a. Gauging the opinions of the congregation through some form of survey or well-publicized open meetings.
 - b. Raising funds for such a project or agency with a collection dedicated specifically to that purpose, such that those not supportive of it can withhold any contribution.
7. Recent grants have ranged from \$250.00 to \$2,000.00.