

SOUTH CAROLINA MINISTERS BENEVOLENCE MINISTRY

Revised by the State Council – September 20, 2021

MISSION AND PURPOSE: The ministers of South Carolina provide a *voluntary benevolence ministry* for credentialed Church of God ministers and their spouses called the Ministers Benevolence Ministry (MBM) that will provide immediate financial assistance to the family at the time of death of a member of the Ministers Benevolence Ministry. This is not a life insurance policy.

That the amount of benevolence be set upon recommendation of the Care Committee and set by the State Council. Subject to periodic review.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 1) Must be licensed with the Church of God or be the spouse of the person licensed and a member of the Church of God in the state of South Carolina.
- 2) Must make an initial contribution of \$10.00 per person.
- 3) Application for membership will require the applicant's signature to be witnessed and notarized.
- 4) Newly credentialed ministers and their spouses that enroll within thirty (30) days of being credentialed will be covered immediately. All other enrollees shall not be eligible to receive benefits until six (6) months after their enrollment.
- 5) A member of the MBM will be permitted to continue in the program should they move/transfer to another state.
- 6) A minister's widow/widower will remain qualified for the MBM if he/she should remarry a non-clergy, provided he/she remains otherwise qualified.
- 7) If a member of the MBM that is credentialed undergoes suspension of credentials, he/she may continue as a member of the MBM provided he/she complies with all the requirements of the suspension/restoration process. The members' suspension does not disqualify his/her spouse.
- 8) If the credentials of a member of the MBM are revoked, he/she may not continue as a member of the Minister Benevolence Ministry. The member's revocation does not disqualify his/her spouse.
- 9) Any member whose credentials are reinstated may reapply for membership.

PRIMARY/SECONDARY RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS

Enrollees in the MBM will be required to fill out the Primary Recipient Information section of the MBM application provided by the State Office. In the event the Primary Recipient is no longer able/available to assume the responsibility as Primary Recipient, the Secondary Recipient will become the Primary Recipient.

The State Office will disclose a member's information only to the member, his/her Primary, and Secondary Recipient.

DISQUALIFICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

- 1) When a member fails to send their contribution after two (2) deaths, he/she will be notified of said delinquency, be given 15 business days to rectify, and if not rectified, will become ineligible for benefits after that time.
- 2) If a non-clergy widow/widower should remarry a non-clergy spouse, the non-clergy spouse is not eligible for the MBM.

For disqualifications due to revocation of credentials, see item 8 under, **QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP**.

RE-ENROLLMENT OF MEMBERSHIP

- 1) In the event a member is delinquent, he/she shall be required to pay \$30.00 per person which equals two (2) delinquent contributions and one (1) new enrollment fee) in order to be reinstated.
- 2) Re-enrollment will be subject to the six-month waiting period without exception.

DISBURSEMENT GUIDELINES

At the time of death of a member, each person who is enrolled in the MBM will be notified by the State Office by the most efficient means available and will be required to contribute \$10.00 per enrollee, made payable to Church of God State Funds and mailed to the State Office within fifteen (15) days of notification.

All disbursements will be made from the State Office.

SPECIAL REQUEST/CONSIDERATION TO LOCAL CHURCH

Where funds are available, churches are asked to pay the contributions for their pastor and credentialed staff and any retired ministers or their widows that are members in their church.

For additional information or specific questions concerning the Ministers Benevolence Ministry, email melody.hand@sccog.com or 864-963-4751 ext. 107