

# **S. T. NAGBE UMC DISTANT MEMBER FELLOWSHIP**



## **Benevolence Policy**

February 21, 2023

### **1. Introduction**

This **Benevolence Policy** is established as a ‘good will’ tool to identify with the S. T. Nagbe UMC Distant Members Fellowship members in times of need, concerns, and celebrations. It outlines the qualification for, procedure, and dollar amounts distributed to all members. The specific areas covered under this policy include bereavement, graduations, and weddings, as well as other occasions of sadness or celebration to be determined by the leadership of the Fellowship. This policy shall not violate the Fellowship’s 501(C)(3) status and shall follow the IRS guidelines stipulating the tracking, use, and recording of benevolence funds.

## **2. Definitions:**

For the Policy:

**Active Member** – is one who attends meetings, participates in the Fellowship’s activities and pays his or her annual membership dues.

**Immediate Relatives** – include parents (biological mother and father), spouse (legally married husband or wife), and children (biological children), of a member.

**Purse** – the dollar amount to be given to a member or his or her family as contribution.

## **3. Death or Bereavement**

### **1. Death of a member**

In the event of the death of an active member of the Fellowship, a Purse of \$500.00 shall be given to the family of the deceased member.

Each member of the Fellowship shall be asked to voluntarily contribute a minimum \$10.00. If the amount collected exceeds \$500.00, the excess money shall be deposited into the Fellowship’s account as a bereavement fund. If the contribution falls short of the \$500.00, the leadership shall take the difference from the coffers of the Fellowship to make up to the \$500.00 Purse amount as stipulated in this policy.

### **2. Death of an immediate relative**

In the event of the death of an immediate relative of an active member of the Fellowship, a Purse of \$250.00 shall be given to the member.

Each member of the Fellowship shall be asked to voluntarily contribute a minimum amount of \$10.00. If the amount collected exceeds \$250.00, the excess money shall be deposited into the Fellowship's account as a bereavement fund. If the contribution falls short of the \$250.00, the leadership shall take the difference from the coffers of the Fellowship to make up to the \$250.00 Purse amount as stipulated in this policy.

#### **4. Marriage/Graduation**

The Distant Members Fellowship affirms marriage as a union between a man and a woman as ordained by God. "It is not good for the man to be alone...Therefore, a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and together, they become one flesh." Genesis 2:18, 24.

##### **1. Wedding**

In the event of the wedding of an active member of the Fellowship, a Purse of \$200.00 shall be given as a gift to the member.

Each member shall be asked to contribute a minimum amount of \$5.00 voluntarily. If the amount collected exceeds \$200.00, the excess money shall be deposited into the Fellowship's account as a bereavement fund. If the contribution falls short of the \$200.00, the leadership shall take the difference from the coffers of the Fellowship to make up to the \$200.00 Purse amount as stipulated in this policy.

##### **2. Graduation**

If an active member graduates from college, graduate school or attains a terminal degree, the Fellowship shall send a Graduation Card with the amount of \$100.00 as congratulations for the academic accomplishment.

The amount shall be taken from the account of the Benevolence Fund. If the amount is unavailable in the Fund, the leadership of the Executive Committee of the Fellowship shall determine the means to honor this obligation.

Members are encouraged to attend, participate and support the graduate in whatever way they can.

## **5. Other Occasions**

All other occasions and exceptional circumstances not outlined in this Policy shall be handled on a case-by-case basis to be determined and coordinated by the Executive Committee with the consent of the Board of Advisors.

Respectfully Submitted January 20, 2023:

Benevolence Committee

Rev. Levi C. Williams, II  
Samuel Wuo  
Olivia Browne  
Syewon Weah  
Daysely R Zulu