LOVE OTHERS FUND

Introduction

Being "missional" simply means being outward and others-focused with the goal of expressing and sharing the love of Christ. Jesus told His followers not to remove themselves from the world and create an isolated Christian sub-culture. Rather, He taught His followers to be engaged with people in the world (John 17:15). The church was not created for itself, but it was created to worship God, disciple the saints, and spread His love to others.

Therefore, at ODC we don't have a specific "missions department" that does this missional work on behalf of the church body. Instead, we believe every person in the church is to be on mission. Jesus clearly told the church to "go and make disciples" (Matthew 28:18-20), and the early church was clearly instructed to go out into the local city, region, country, and world to be a witness of Him (Acts 1:8).

For us today, these instructions are not exclusive to overseas missions alone but are to be lived out in our own neighborhoods, city, and region. (2 Corinthians 14:21; Colossians 4:5-6).

Our Missional Call to Love Others

Everyone who has received the Gospel and is part of the church should have a heart for being involved in our local community and in activities that express the love of God outside of our internal church events. We want to see people and love people as Jesus did (Matthew 9:35-38). We feel this responsibility is not given to the leadership of the church alone, but rather, it is a call on each person in the church.

Stewarding Our Financial Resources in Light of This Call

The fact that the church is to be a missional movement of people who actively engage society with the Gospel means we must invest in mobilizing our people to love on and serve our community.

Our Goal is for ODC to commit at least 10% of its annual budget to missional efforts that benefit those outside our local church family.

One half of this 10% goes to sending and supporting specific people and organizations that serve others in our city and around the world. This includes missionaries (local and abroad), non-profit organizations, camps, schools, etc.

The other half of this 10% will go to ODC's *Love Others Fund*. The *Love Others Fund* is simply an "in and out account" designed to be used to mobilize and support missional efforts by our church family that enable them to serve and love others in our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Our objective is for the *Love Others Fund* to be an active agent to help our church family pursue our city with the love of Jesus. Our hope is that as a result of these efforts, we will see compassion, salvation, and restoration taking place in peoples' lives throughout our city.

We realize that many times, our creative ideas and efforts to love those outside ODC are held up by a lack of funding. But now with this fund being made available to the members of ODC, a lack of financial resources will no longer have to be a common reason why our people are not able to use their time and talents to sacrificially serve those in our city who are in spiritual or physical need.

So, if you are a member of ODC, we encourage you to pursue this call to be missional and to love others in our community in creative and practical ways. If you have an idea and are interested in applying for resources from the *Love Others Fund*, check out the documents "Love Others Fund Instructions," "Love Others Fund FAQ," "Love Others Fund Application" and for more details.

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Instructions

1. **Please read the "Love Others Fund introduction" and "Love Others Fund FAQ" documents to be sure your group and project fits the description of what the *Love Others Fund* is intended for.**

2. **Fill out and submit the Love Others Fund Application available at the Church Office or online at: www.olivedrivechurch.com/online-forms.**

3. **Applications must be submitted at least 30 days prior to the event to allow for review, approval, and funding to be provided. Sometimes a request for clarity or modifications will be sent to the group before approval is given. If approved, a check will be cut and sent to the group representative.**

4. **Upon receiving the funds, you will be given a blank report to be filled out. This report will be a record of how all funds were used and must be submitted at the conclusion of the project. You will need three signatures of Covenant Members that were involved in the funds being used. All receipts are to be attached to the report.**

5. **For the purpose of celebrating what God is doing in and through his people, we ask for groups to take pictures and video their project (when appropriate). In addition, you will need a few members to write about what God did in and through the project. These testimonies may be shared on our website, in our worship services, and in other ways.**

If you have questions or want more information about the Love Others Fund, please email us at info@olivedrivechurch.com

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

What is the Love Others Fund?

The Love Others Fund is an "in and out" account designed to be used to mobilize and support the members of Olive Drive Church in their efforts to tangibly and creatively love others outside of our church. A few examples of projects the Love Others Fund is designed to help fund include:

- the purchase of new flowers or a new fence to be installed in a neighborhood or home
- the purchase of food or renting a bounce house for a block party for local families to come and be loved on
- the purchase of a roll of quarters, laundry detergent, and some lemonade so a group from ODC can do laundry for some families in low income apartments while getting to know them over a glass of lemonade.

Why do we have a Love Others Fund?

As the Gospel transforms lives, we believe it produces a people on mission who are deeply concerned with loving others in our own backyards, neighborhoods, communities, and city. This mission compels us to be deeply involved with our neighbors, co-workers, friends, families, and those in need in our city. The Love Others Fund is designed to provide the money needed to allow the members of Olive Drive Church to creatively, practically, and consistently engage and serve those who are in spiritual or physical need.

Who is responsible for managing the Love Others Fund?

The elders or those delegated by the elders are the ones charged with overseeing the approval and distribution of funds.

Can a non-member access the fund for a service project?

No. You must have at least three people who are Covenant Members of Olive Drive Church to request funds for a service project.

Can a single member get access to the fund for a project?

No. A single person cannot get access to the fund. For the sake of accountability and because God has called us to minister within in the context of community with one another, we only allow groups of 3 people or more to make a request for funds for any given project.

How does a group get access to Love Other Funds for a project?

The "Love Others Fund Application" must be filled out and turned in with the signatures of at least three Covenant Members of ODC. The application is then reviewed and used to help determine how much money (if any) you will receive from the *Love Others Fund* to help with your project.

Is there a minimum or maximum amount of funds that a group can request?

No. We want to remain open to the leading of the Holy Spirit as to how to best distribute the funds. Some projects will obviously be more expensive than others. We encourage groups to be creative as to what needs they are hoping to address. It is helpful to be reasonable in all requests. Requests for a minuscule or massive amount of funds will likely result in having to reconsider what it is your group is looking to do.

Can money be requested to give away to someone in need?

No. Monetary gifts are not what this fund is intended for. We have a deacon's fund and other ways to raise money to give to those in need. The *Love Others Fund* is designed to mobilize our local church members to serve and love those in the community with their time and talents.

How are the funds from the *Love Others Fund* accounted for?

Receipts and a record of how money was spent is reported and turned in with the final project report. The report is signed by at least three Covenant Members who participated in the event and are willing to vouch for how the money was used.

What are the expectations for how a group does a project?

We encourage groups to be creative about how they plan to love others in the name of Christ and be active in the community. In general, we request that at the very least the Gospel needs to be center in the event, an invitation to participate in the life of ODC needs to be extended (when appropriate), and a report and written testimony of what God did through the event will need to be submitted for the sake of sharing all that God is doing through our people in the community.

How can I come up with ideas for new projects?

We encourage you to talk to your group and brainstorm creative ways to tangibly love others in our community. In addition, if you would like to schedule a time to talk to someone about ideas, you can contact us at info@olivedrivechurch.com.

If you have questions or want more information about the Love Others Fund, please email us at info@olivedrivechurch.com

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Application

GROUP REPRESENTATIVE NAME: _____ Email: _____

Phone: _____ Address: _____

Please answer the following questions. Attach more paper when needed for space. The answers to these questions help determine the amount of funds (if any) you will be given.

What are the names of the group/project participants that will be using the funds to love others in the name of Christ?

Who outside of ODC are you intending to serve with this project?

Describe the ministry will you be providing for those outside of ODC that you intend to serve?

How much is your group requesting from the fund and how will the funds be spent?

When and where will the project happen?

What is your goal for the project?

What is your intended follow up?

Who will be handling the funds and be responsible for all receipts to be turned in with a signed final report?

Please read the following paragraph and indicate your agreement to it by signing below.

> ***We acknowledge the information above is accurate and true, and represents, to the best of our ability, an accurate description of what we are proposing to do with any funds received. In addition, we are committed to the using the funds we receive in a way that is consistent with the heart of the "Love Others Fund" as described in the "Love Others Fund Introduction" document. Further, we understand and agree that all funds and projects associated with the Love Others Fund are subject to the approval and oversight of the Board of Elders of Olive Drive Church.***

Covenant Member #1 Name (Printed): _____

Covenant Member #1 Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Covenant Member #2 Name (Printed): _____

Covenant Member #2 Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Covenant Member #3 Name (Printed): _____

Covenant Member #3 Signature _____ **Date:** _____

Please return completed application to the church office. If you have any questions, please email us at info@olivedrivechurch.com and reference "Love Others Fund Application" in the subject field.