**Miles Chapel C.M.E. Bereavement Guideline**

The unfortunate event of a loss can be painful. Losing a family member or a love one can be very difficult for most of us to handle.

Here at Miles Chapel C.M.E. Church we understand that a member dealing with their loss, may require various assistance while they pass through the stages of grief. People react differently to losing a loved one.

While we would like to make ourselves available in any way the member’s family may need our assistance, it should be understandable that we must have a guideline. Below is the Guideline for Bereavement at Miles Chapel C.M.E. Church.

**Bereavement -** **a period of mourning after a loss, especially after the death of a loved one.**

1. **Bereavement is funerals for family members, of Miles Chapel**
2. Bereavement shall be for a member’s following relatives: (spouse, parent or child).
3. There may be some exceptions, which will be left up to the pastor (i.e. grandparent, uncle, aunt or a step-parent).
4. **What should Miles Chapel give to members going through bereavement?**

* It has been customary of the church that we give at least a plant for bereavement
* Miles Chapel provides and prepare (if needed) the food for funerals held at the church (after burial), for the deceased member’s family (within reason).

1. **Who should receive the gift?  Miles Chapel has several members that are related.  It should be understandable that we cannot give a gift to each member grieving.   Who do we give the gift to?**

* The gift should go to the same person who received the Resolution. Thereafter, the family can choose.

1. **Where should the bereavement gift come from?**

Ideally bereavement should come from benevolence. If insufficient funds are in benevolence, then we should be able to borrow from General Funds. In the order of:

1. Benevolence
2. General Fund

**Note: Each auxiliary may have their own guidelines as to how they handle bereavement for members in their ministry. Non-members are required to pay for the following: church rental, food, sound system, janitorial service and caretaker.**

**Who do I contact: The church secretary should be contacted and given the specifics regarding the family member’s loss. If the secretary cannot be reached, the pastor should be contacted.**