

MERCY MEALS POLICY

AT CRAWFORD AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

As we continue to grow, there will be more and more families/individuals who find themselves in need of Mercy Meals. Typically, this ministry is offered on behalf of the church when someone is in need, however there are occasions when true need escapes the oversight of the church. In order to provide consistent care for the entire body at Crawford Avenue, we ask that you abide by the following guidelines when/if requesting meals for your own family.

These guidelines are in no way meant to exclude families or individuals who are in true need of receiving care. Instead, we wish to secure *greater* provision for those in need by limiting the frequency of meals requested. We want to care for our friends as well as those whom we barely know. We want everyone in need to feel graciously overwhelmed with care and love. We also want volunteers to have the time and energy to fulfill every request.

- This policy assumes that the recipient is a member, or regularly attends Crawford Avenue's worship gatherings on Sundays.
- Organizing mercy meals may take 24-48 hours before the first meal arrives.
- Some situations may arise that are beyond the scope of what mercy meals are intended to address. For long term care and support, please address your shepherding elder.
- As standard procedure, meals will be offered for no longer than a two week span.

The following are acceptable scenarios for requesting meals:

- Postpartum recovery and care. Meals may be provided immediately following the birth, or they may be postponed until after family leaves town.
- Illness or injury that debilitates all available caretakers in the house.
 - Ex: Husband and wife both too sick to make meals for children.
 - Ex: Husband out of town or unable to come home, wife is too sick to feed children.
 - Ex: Single individual injured; not able to cook, get groceries, etc.
- Death of an immediate family member (parents, siblings, son, daughter), or death of any person with whom you share residence (roommate, extended family).
- Death of an extended family member wherein the primary caretakers in the house are also responsible for handling the logistics of the funeral.

Please contact your shepherding elder if...

- ... a scenario arises that escapes the limitations of these parameters and you feel as if you are **not able** to feed yourself or your family.
- ... you are physically able to cook/make a meal but are financially unable to secure provisions in order to feed your family.
- ... you are physically able to cook/make a meal but are not able visit a grocery store due to limited mobility or lack of transportation.
- ... you have received your limit of meals (two weeks) and are in need of further assistance.

Consult the member directory for our current mercy meals director and for their contact information.