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**Bereavement Meal Committee**

**Scope:** Provide a meal for families suffering (experiencing) the loss of a loved one.

**Purpose:**

The Bereavement Meal Committee is to make arrangements for a meal to be provided when there is a death in the family of an ARBC member, usually husband, wife, or child. Additionally, if a church member has a death in the member's extended family, a meal may be provided if the deceased family member is not a member of a church and a meal will not be provided otherwise and the funeral is conducted locally. The church shall provide budgeted funds for the purchase of required food products. Unpaid volunteers enlisted by the Bereavement Meal Committee shall prepare the food. Customarily, a meal is provided during the period from the day of death through the day of the funeral but may be provided at another time by mutual agreement.

**Membership:**

Composed of three members nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the church to serve three-year rotating terms which begin in January annually. The Nominating Committee should make an effort to nominate persons to this committee who can be available at any time a meal needs to be provided. Ex-officio members of the committee are a Pastoral staff liaison assigned by the Lead Pastor and a Deacon liaison assigned by the Deacon chair.

**Relationships:**

The committee assists the church, within the realm of the committee purpose, in fulfilling the church's Mission: To proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to minister to the needs of our congregation, the community, and the world through the leadership of the Holy Spirit. This committee shall utilize the five Biblical Functions of Worship, Fellowship, Discipleship, Ministry, and Evangelism in meeting the committee's purpose and duties and in communicating, collaborating, coordinating, and cooperating with others. The Committee chair serves as a member of the Church Council.

**Duties:**

1. Administer an equitable meal distribution plan for bereaved church families.
2. Organize a core group of volunteers for meal preparation and serving.
3. Serve a meal to each bereaved church family if mutually agreeable.
4. Meet as often as needed to accomplish the committee's purpose.
5. Invite assigned Pastoral staff and Deacon liaisons to committee meetings and provide a copy of meeting minutes.
6. Provide a written report of deliberations, activities, and recommendations to the Church Council when requested.