

Solomon's Porch Storehouse Principles

Biblical principles and basis for the Storehouse:

Storehouse

Malachi 3:10

Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

Sharing

Acts 4:32-35

All the believers were one in heart and mind. No one claimed that any of their possessions was their own, but they shared everything they had. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all that there were no needy persons among them. For from time to time those who owned land or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostles' feet, and it was distributed to anyone who had need.

Love for one another

Deuteronomy 15:11

Therefore I command you to be open handed toward your brothers and toward the poor and needy in your land.

Matthew 6:2

So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.

Matthew 25:35-36; 40

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

[...]

The King will reply "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me".

Executive Summary

Storehouse Fund aims to provide financial assistance to the members of SP through a grant program where House Church leaders seek SF grants to supplement their HC's efforts to help meet their members' need in accordance with biblical principles.

Defined terms used in this document:

Grant	unit of financial assistance disbursed by the fund
Grant Proposal (GP)	proposal to provide financial assistance
Grantee	individual who receives financial assistance
Grant Sponsor	individual that nominates the GP
Storehouse Fund (SF)	the proposed financial assistance program
Storehouse Committee	committee to oversee SF operations

Why was the Storehouse Fund established?

To provide financial assistance to the members of SP in accordance with the biblical principles of care for the needy and love for our neighbours.

Who is intended to be helped by the Storehouse?

Active members of SP. An "Active Member" is defined as:

- is a regular attendee of a House Church (as determined by his/her HC leaders); or
- is a member of Solomon's Porch Indonesia (as determined by P.Selamet).

The Storehouse Committee may also consider persons attending SP who do not fall within the above two categories on a case by case basis. For such cases, the Storehouse Committee will review the relevant Grant Proposal and will make a recommendation to the Board for approval. The Grant Sponsor in these circumstances may be a member of the SP pastoral team, SP staff or a HC leader known to the individual.

How is the Storehouse administered?

The Storehouse Committee (comprising 1 SP staff member and 3 HC leaders) has day-to-day oversight for administering the Storehouse Fund including:

- reviewing Grant Proposals;
- liaising with HC Leaders and P.Selamet (as the case may be) on requests and following up for further information (as necessary);
- communicating decisions in writing to the Grant Sponsor and the Grantee (such communication may be via an email from the Storehouse Committee email account;

- liaising with the Board on Grants which requires the Board's input and/or approval; and
- providing quarterly status reports to the Board.

The Storehouse Committee may refer questions to the Board if it is unable to reach a decision on a Grant Proposal.

Storehouse Committee Members will serve for a minimum term of 12 months. New Storehouse Committee members will be appointed by the Board.

Role of HC Leaders

The Storehouse Fund is intended to bless Active Members in need in partnership with House Churches. The HC leaders will play an important role in identifying and validating these needs, collecting relevant information to assist the Storehouse Committee, coordinating the co-funding the process and communicating with the Grantee.

How are grant proposals submitted?

After first praying about a need, a HC leader may submit a Request Form (see template in Appendix of this note) to the Storehouse Committee at the following dedicated email address: storehouse@sphk.org

What categories of needs does the Storehouse meet?

Medical, unemployment, tertiary education, bereavement and other areas which the Storehouse Committee prayerfully considers are appropriate and which are not already covered by an existing SP Ministry.

Eligibility Criteria for each Storehouse Category

HC leaders should assess each situation and distill the following information to provide to the Storehouse Committee:

1. Medical

- How urgent is the situation?
- What other support is available to the person? E.g. insurance

2. Unemployment

- How long has the person been unemployed?
- Does the person have any immediate dependents he/she cares for? E.g. children, parents
- Is the person the sole source of income for the household?

3. Tertiary Education*

*(*Note: The Storehouse Fund is primarily focused on supporting members in undergraduate programmes who are struggling through a financial crisis. The Storehouse Fund is not intended to support members in graduate programmes or above)*

- Where does the person intend to study?
- Availability of alternative universities?
- What steps has the person/their family taken to prepare for tertiary education?

4. Bereavement

- Support limited to immediate family members (e.g. spouse, parents, children, and grandparents)
- Consider others on case by case basis

5. Other areas

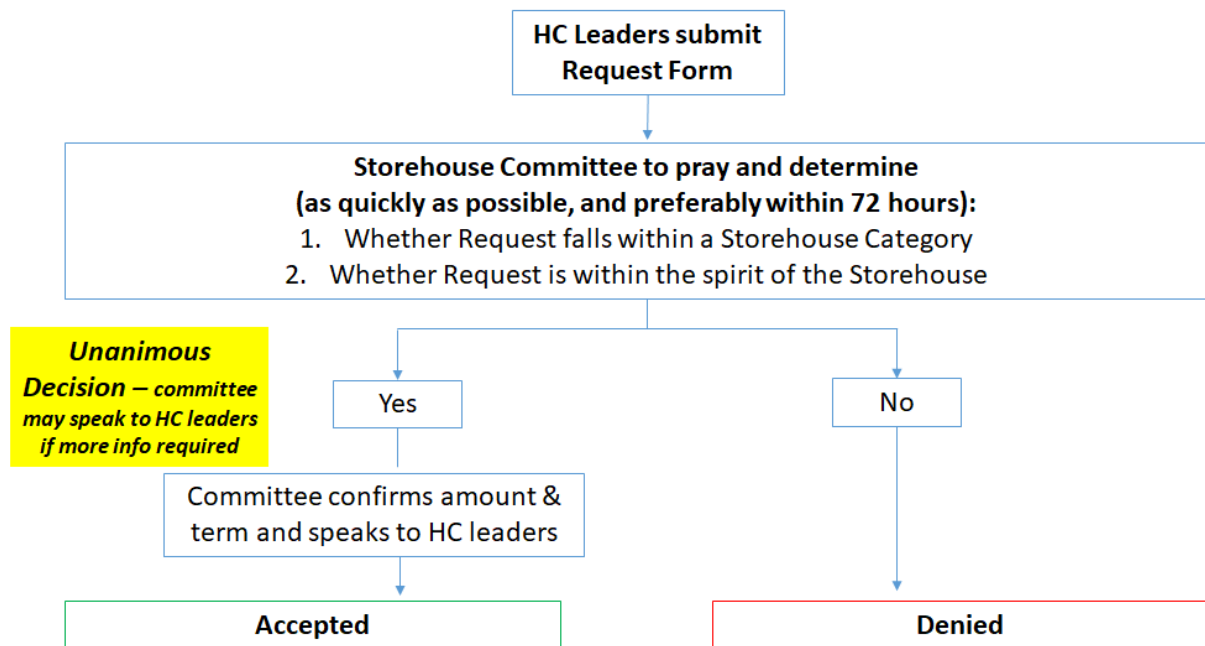
- Emergency situations (consider severity of the situation and availability of other support e.g. insurance)
- Compassionate situations

Determining the amount to be released from the Fund

Storehouse Committee to consider the following criteria in determining the amount to release:

- Consider whether the amount specified in the Request Form is appropriate having regard to the circumstances of the individual and the amount available in the Storehouse Fund;
- What support is the HC providing to the individual? Ideally, the HC will also be contributing. HC leaders to provide their views, if requested.
- Is a lump sum appropriate, or should the funds be released in instalments, based on clear milestones/conditions;
- If the requested Grant is over HK\$100,000, the Storehouse Committee will need to submit the recommended proposal to the Board for approval.

Procedure for reviewing a request



The Storehouse Committee will keep a record of all requests. The Storehouse Committee may discuss a case further with the relevant HC leaders for the purpose of obtaining further information and insight.

Confidentiality

The Storehouse Fund is intended to bless the SP community. As stewards, we should exercise wisdom in dealing with the Fund to ensure it is used appropriately, and in accordance with the Biblical principles for which it is established. Details of the Storehouse Fund are disclosed to SP staff, board members and HC Leaders. However, it will not be disclosed to the congregation. This is to preserve the integrity of the Storehouse Fund.

January 2021

Appendix: Request Form

To be completed by Grant Sponsor:

Date	
Name of HC	
Names of Grant Sponsor/s	
Name of Active Member (i.e. person who requires assistance)	
Category	<input type="checkbox"/> Medical <input type="checkbox"/> Unemployment <input type="checkbox"/> Tertiary education <input type="checkbox"/> Bereavement <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Background/Key information for Committee including what support is being provided by the HC	
Estimate of amount that HC is raising	HK\$
Estimate of amount required	HK\$
Type of grant disbursement required	<input type="checkbox"/> One-time <input type="checkbox"/> Periodic (please specify) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
Grant Sponsor/s confirm prayed and sought to raise support from within the HC	[type "Yes" to confirm]

To be completed by SP Storehouse Committee:

Request Form No.	
Approved?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (If no, insert reasons for rejection)
Amount Approved	
Payment arrangements	[One time payment or installment payments]
Conditions/Milestones	[Describe any conditions or milestones]
Payee	
Purpose of Payment	
Confirmation from Committee	[Attach email chain of Committee's approval]