

Central Peace Ministerial

Virtual Food Bank Request Form

ORIGIN: The Virtual Food Bank was created by the Central Peace Ministerial (which consists of the pastors of our region or their designates) in the winter of 2016. We created it because we recognized that the nearest food banks were not easily accessible to the individuals and families in our area. It took the *virtual* form that it has because we thought this would be both easier to administrate and more effective than a traditional food bank.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the Virtual Food Bank is to discreetly assist individuals and families by meeting serious needs on a short-term basis. It is our vision to help people get through their 'hard times' so that they might be able to become self-sufficient, and perhaps someday become a source of help to others. Our resources are finite at any given moment, but they are generously replenished by the good people of the Central Peace district (and others!) – for which we are very thankful!

OPERATION: We recognize that in some cases our help may be required for just a few weeks; whereas in others longer term help may be necessary. Therefore, our assistance can only be applied for, and received, on a monthly basis. Application is made through any of the pastors in the Central Peace area. Their contact numbers can be found on the "Church Directory Ad" of *The Central Peace Signal*. The process involves meeting with a pastor of the Ministerial (or their designate) and filling out this form. Currently, individuals may receive **one** \$50 gift-card *per month*, and families **two** \$50 gift-cards *per month*. We reserve the right to revise this amount at any time, and also to suspend service to those whom we determine to be abusive for whatever length of time we deem fit. We reserve the right to decide what our response will be to abuse of the Bank on a case-by-case basis. The cards may be redeemed at participating grocers. These stores will not exchange the value of the cards for cash, lottery tickets, tobacco products, or other gift cards.

The following form helps us to track the usage of our system and to prevent the abuse of it. While the use of our system will be reviewed by the ministerial on a monthly basis, your information will be kept strictly confidential among the members of the ministerial.

May God bless you and yours and meet your every need!

Applicant's name: _____

Applicant's I.D. and address: _____

Aid provided: _____

I have read this form, I understand how the system works, and I promise to adhere to its regulations.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Witness (Print name): _____

(Sign name): _____

Central Peace Ministerial

Virtual Food Bank Policies

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Virtual Food Bank (VFB) is to assist individuals and families residing in the Central Peace region by providing food and other household necessities. (The Central Peace region is roughly defined as the area bounded by the Peace river on the north, the Saddle hills on the south, the B.C. border on the west and the Smokey River on the east.) The VFB sees its assistance as a short-term aid toward long-term self-sufficiency.

Donations

1. Donations may be made to the VFB through any pastor of the Central Peace Ministerial (CPM). The Ministerial retains the right to define and control how donations are received.
2. Donations may also be made through individuals designated by the pastors of the CPM.
3. Donations may be made through events that are sanctioned by the CPM.
4. Donations will be held in a designated section of the CPM bank account.
5. Donors will receive a tax receipt upon request.

Access

1. Access to the VFB is made through the pastors of the CPM or their designates. The Ministerial retains the right to define and control how access to the Bank is made.
2. The pastors of the CPM retain the right to appoint designates that are acceptable to the other members of the Ministerial.
3. Every request to the VFB must be made by the completion of the application form, whether it is the initial request of an individual or any subsequent request. The application forms will be archived by one of the members of the Ministerial, and the information upon them will be kept strictly confidential among the CPM's members.
4. The CPM retains the right to refuse access to those that it deems abusive of the system on a case by case basis, and for whatever length of time we see fit.
5. Because it is a *food* bank, the VFB will never distribute cash, but will only allow withdrawals in the form of gift cards to participating grocers. The cards will be good for food and other household necessities, but not for tobacco, lottery tickets, or cash exchange.

6. To prevent abuse and to monitor the use of the bank, the Ministerial will conduct a review of the usage of the bank at its monthly meetings.
7. In the event that the CPM should ever disband, the funds and archives of the VFB will be given over to whichever organization the CPM should choose before its dissolution in order that they may continue its administration according to the principles and practices stated above.

Assistance

1. The CPM reserves the right to determine the amount of assistance it gives to individuals and families. This amount may fluctuate over time.
2. At present individuals can receive one \$100 gift card for a one-month period.
3. The CPM reserves the right to define its own concept of a family unit: at present, we define it as an individual plus one or more dependants who are currently living with that individual.
4. A family, as defined above, can receive two \$100 gift cards per month.