

Acts 6 Ministry Special Talent Volunteer or Associate Volunteer

Personal Commitment Letter of Understanding

An Acts 6 **Special Talent Volunteer (STV)** is an individual who desires to use their skills or expertise to provide service(s) to others through the Acts 6 Ministry. An **Acts 6 Associate Volunteer (AV)** is an individual who accompanies a Special Talent Volunteer (STV) on projects as a helper—particularly in situations where a male STV is serving a widow alone.

As an STV or AV, I affirm the "Guiding Scripture" of our ministry, James 1:27: "Pure and undefiled religion before our God and Father is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself unstained by the world."

Acts 6 Ministry STVs and AVs are committed to responding to the widows' request for help to prevent distress caused by household or vehicle issues. This tangible help is a tremendous blessing to the widow and aligns with the two goals of the Acts 6 Ministry:

1. To help each widow live out her spiritual ministry with as much peace and comfort as possible
2. To be a Christian witness to her family and friends

I understand and commit to responsibly building and maintaining trust with the widow to whom I am connected. This trust extends to her personal safety as well as her property. My service within this ministry will always be motivated—without compromise—by her spiritual, mental, and physical well-being.

The STV and AV services will typically be coordinated through the Acts 6 Ministry Team and the assigned Ministry Team Deacon. Most service requests are repairs to home, property or vehicle. While most are routine, some may require creative solutions or minor improvements (e.g., installing a handrail or grab bar). At times, offering sound advice may be the most helpful response.

The cost of materials should be covered by the widow whenever possible, but when that is not possible the Acts 6 deacon will work with the widow to request financial help from the Acts 6 Benevolence Fund managed through Care Ministry. This is an Acts 6 designated benevolence fund which is separate from The Shepherd's Church general benevolence fund. STVs and AVs are not responsible for project funding. However, widows may ask an STV to purchase needed materials and reimburse them directly.

I recognize that my primary ministry responsibility is to the widow and will take appropriate time to minister to her in various ways, including praying with her. I understand that family or friends may be present and observing my faith and ministry. I expect the widow to be satisfied when I leave and will provide a way to contact me or the ministry should the unexpected occur. I may follow up with a call to check in later.

I will not send anyone outside of the Acts 6 ministry to the widow's home without being there myself. I may recommend a business and provide help in explaining the job, but the actual contracting of the job should be done by the person responsible for making payment.

I understand that serving as a STV or AV within the Acts 6 Ministry requires being at least 21 years of age for an STV and 18 years of age for an AV.

I accept the responsibility to maintain my spiritual life, church involvement, and community witness in a manner consistent with the values and expectations of the Acts 6 Ministry.

I understand as a volunteer at The Shepherd's Church that I will need to authorize The Shepherd's Church to conduct an annual background check.

Acts 6 Ministry Liability Waiver

In consenting to this ("Liability Waiver"), I agree not to hold The Shepherd's Church, its officers, employees, or other agents liable for any injury, loss, damage, or accident that I might encounter while engaged in The Shepherd's Church Acts 6 Ministry program.

I realize and acknowledge that my participation in the Acts 6 Ministry includes some risks and possible dangers. I hereby assume any such risks that might result from my participation and I unconditionally agree to hold The Shepherd's Church, its officers, employees, or other agents blameless for any liability concerning my personal health and well-being, or any liability for my personal property that might be lost, damaged, or stolen while participating in the Acts 6 Ministry.

I have carefully read the foregoing and I understand that by checking the below box I herein hold The Shepherd's Church, its officers, employees, or other agents harmless for any liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay, or irregularity in schedule.

I am eighteen (18) years of age or older, or the parent/guardian of the participant if under eighteen years of age, and this Liability Waiver is binding on me and my executor, administrators, and heirs.

The parties to this Liability Waiver are Christians and believe that the Bible commands them to make every effort to live at peace and to resolve disputes with each other in private or within the Christian church (see Matthew 18:15-20; 1 Corinthians 6:1-8). Therefore, the parties agree that any claim or dispute arising from or related to this Liability Waiver shall be settled by biblically based mediation and, if necessary, legally binding arbitration in accordance with the Rules of Procedure for Christian Conciliation of the Institute for Christian Conciliation. All such mediation and arbitration shall take place in Cary or Raleigh, North Carolina. Judgment upon an arbitration award may be entered in any court otherwise having jurisdiction. The parties understand that these methods shall be the sole remedy for any controversy or claim arising out of this Liability Waiver and expressly waive their right to file a lawsuit in any civil court against one another for such disputes, except to enforce an arbitration decision.

I have read the Acts 6 STV/AV Commitment Letter as well as the Liability Statement and agree with each of the statements (please check the box to the left)