

Funeral/Memorial Policy

Approved 4/27/2014

Purpose

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to the event of death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death, Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit and the community of faith. The Church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve. As this is the basis of a Christian funeral defined by our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, His death and Resurrection from the dead, we at *The Gathering* set forth the following policy on funeral/memorial services which occur at North Corvallis Ministry Center, heretofore known as NCMC.

Pastor

It is expected that primary arrangements will be made with the Pastor. Typically the pastor will officiate at the service, although there may be times when it will be appropriate for a "visiting" pastor to participate. Requests for the participation of a guest pastor to assist in the service must be made to the officiating pastor; who, if it is appropriate, will extend an invitation.

Service at NCMC

Church members are encouraged to use the church for funeral/memorial services. Just as we are baptized by God in the church, and have been nourished by God through the church, so it is wholly appropriate that thanksgiving to God for our lives should be offered in church. For members only, there is no charge for the facility use. **NOTE:** However, all other charges apply.

A Time of Worship

In the Christian tradition a funeral/memorial service is considered a service of worship, and will be approached with the dignity and joyful celebration accorded worship. A typical order of worship will include: prelude and postlude of sacred music; hymns and songs of praise and faith; scripture lessons from the Old and New Testaments; a message which expresses thanksgiving to God for the life of the deceased, and reminds all of Christ's resurrection and promise of eternal life; prayers of intercession and thanksgiving; a benediction.

In consultation with the pastor, other elements, such as remarks from family members and friends, may be included in the service. The officiating pastor shall make the final determination on the elements of worship. The typical time frame for a funeral/memorial service is 1 to 1 ½ hours. Once the service is completed, all flowers, photo boards and any other props should be removed from the sanctuary immediately. This would be the responsibility of the family.

Type of Service

The Gathering Church enjoys both traditional and contemporary styles of worship. While it is anticipated that most funeral/memorial services will reflect a traditional approach to worship, a contemporary service format is also possible. Every effort will be made to accommodate a desire for the funeral/memorial service to be contemporary in style, which includes multi-media. This option ultimately depends on the availability of volunteer musicians and sound board operators, video technicians; and may require the use of recorded music.

Committal Service

The pastor is available to lead a brief committal service at the site (locally) where the casket/cremains are to be interred. This service typically includes: scripture; prayers; words of committal; a benediction.

Military/Masonic Honors

Military Honors are more than welcome and reverently observed if requested. However Masonic honors are not considered part of Christian worship, and are therefore more appropriately carried out at the funeral home or cemetery.

Fees

When the deceased was a member:

- a. Musician: \$100.00
- b. Pastor: no fee, although an honorarium is acceptable
- c. Sound and/or video technician \$50
- d. Facility: NO CHARGE (However, there will be a four hour maximum time frame for both the service and reception, if held at NCMC.)

When the deceased was a non-member:

- a. Musician: \$100.00
- b. Pastor: \$150.00
- c. Sound and/or video technician \$65
- d. Sanctuary: \$200
- e. Fellowship hall (if used for a reception with a three hour time limit): \$200

Fees for other musicians should be in accordance with their normal pay scale.

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All services will require a reasonable **custodial fee of \$65**. [Weekend services will require additional fees based on custodian availability. If applicable, the pastor will discuss this fee with you.]

NOTE: Sunday services of any kind are generally discouraged since that is when the regularly scheduled services occur at NCMC.

Memorials

Gifts given in memory of a loved one are appropriate and welcomed. Donations may be made to “*The Gathering General Treasury*” to be used at the discretion of the Leadership Team, or “*The Food Bank at NCMC*.”

Final Plans

Members of *The Gathering Church* are strongly encouraged to pre-plan their funeral/memorial service. They may do so by contacting your local funeral home. Once completed, the forms will be kept in the funeral home’s confidential files where they will be available for revision. At the time of death, the information will be shared with family members, and the pastor with whom the service is being planned. Pre-planning, when possible, relieves the family of unnecessary stress induced buying of plots, coffins and other items such as headstones.

*****All fees and honorariums are due the day of the service.**

All other stipulations and/or restrictions in regards to facility use are outlined in the Facility Use Policy.

I understand and agree to the policy set forth in the Funeral/Memorial Policy of *The Gathering Church* and agree to pay all fees on the day service is rendered.

Person requesting use of NCMC: _____

Date: _____ Date of service: _____