

6. **If you can, consider designating a “funeral outfit.”** Not all spouses are fashion-conscious or thinking well at the time, so deciding yourself what clothes will work may be a big help. Your loved one should also ask the funeral home what clothes they require; some want everything, from the skin out. Others, not so much.
7. **Identify the pastor / person who will officiate.** If you are part of a congregation, that’s probably not an issue. If not, who has the ‘stage presence’ and other gifts to lead a service of remembrance? Ask in advance if he or she is willing and can be available.
8. **Decide if you want a funeral or memorial service.** It may be easier to have a private burial and then have a service or other remembrance when it is convenient for people to gather. You may not want a service of any kind, but this isn’t for you; it’s about you. Your family needs to do what they need to do to remember and grieve.
9. **Make a list of hymns, poems, prayers, Scriptures, or other elements of a funeral that are meaningful to you.** You don’t need everything, and giving the family leeway for what they want or need is helpful. Remember, the service is for them.
10. **If there are persons you want to participate, name them.** Give them permission to say no. Not everyone can be ‘up front,’ especially at a highly emotional time. If you will have more helpers than can be accommodated, consider how to spread around the duties—ushers, pallbearers, readers, singers, guest book attendant, and so on. Work with your family in advance to decide how to decide.