

SAMPLE CHURCH FUNERAL HONORARIUMS & FEES



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Funeral Honorariums & Fees

“To Charge or Not to Charge? How to Receive What’s Been Charged.”

Should members be charged honorariums and building usage fees for funeral services in their own churches? If so, should members be the same or a lesser rate than non-members? Should “active” members charged the same fees as “inactive” members? While charging some level of honorarium and fees is a common practice in most churches, receiving the honorarium and fee checks from families (especially church members) is an altogether different story.

For churches that do have a fee structure for funeral services, what are “best practices” for ensuring that honorarium and fee checks are received?

Pastor Coordinated: Some churches, especially small churches or churches where the pastor is not supported by leadership, the pastor finds him/herself coordinating funerals and weddings to include all associated fees and honorariums. With Pastor Coordinated fee structure, the pastor has challenge of setting and receiving fees from grieving families and wedding parties.

Special Events Volunteer Coordinated: Churches that have some measure of internal structure often have members/volunteers assigned to coordinate special events. In a Special Events Volunteer Coordinated ministry, funeral and wedding related checks/payments are coordinated and received by a Special Events Coordinator and forwarded appropriate persons to include the pastor for his/her services.

Funeral Home Coordinated: Regardless of the church size, one effective practice of ensuring that fee/honorarium checks are received is to work with the funeral home chosen by the family to have the church’s funeral related checks included the funeral home’s contracted fees to the family. The funeral home will then receive the church’s fee/honorarium checks along with the other funeral related expenditures and forward the same to the appropriate church officials.

Requirements for the Funeral Home Coordinated Practice: Develop a strong relationship with the local funeral homes in your community by...

- Assigning a trusted member of your church to serve as the church’s point-of-contact and develop strong communications with all funeral homes in the area BEFORE funeral services area needed.
- Maintain an updated Funeral Policy that includes funeral-related honorarium and building usage fee amounts and ensure that each funeral home in the area has a current copy BEFORE funeral services area needed.
- Request that all funeral related honorariums/fees associated with your church be included in the funeral home’s contracted fees to the family BEFORE funeral services area needed.
- Receive funeral related checks directly from the funeral home and not from the family.