

Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery Trust

Policy for Sale and Ownership of Lots

March 22, 2015

Background

The Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery Trust was established June 10, 2010. While a primary purpose of the Cemetery Trust is to honor our ancestors by providing an attractive resting place in perpetuity, the Trust also stipulates that any other use of the property must be in accordance with the following: to provide for members of the local community who have spiritual, emotional, educational and physical needs and to make disciples of Jesus Christ by instilling Christian values in others based upon biblical teachings.

The Trust stipulates that there shall be a minimum of five and a maximum of eight Trustees appointed by the Church membership annually so long as the Church continues to operate as a Church. Each Trustee may be appointed by the Church membership to serve for a period of three years and may serve consecutive terms. At the first meeting of the Trustees in each calendar year, the Trustees elect a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

Any decision or action required of the Trustees in the administration of the Cemetery Trust must be approved by a minimum of two-thirds of the current Trustees. Unanimous consent of the Trustees is not required. The Trustees are required to make an annual accounting to the membership in general of the Church of their actions so long as the Church exists.

The initial Trustees of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery follow: J. Ralph Fallin, B. C. Hudson, Robert G. Sanford, Sue Nash Jones, Robert B. Gillions, Jr., David F. English, George D. English, Jr. and Rebecca M. Gillions.

The Trust is irrevocable and perpetual in nature.

Description of Cemetery Trust Property

The Cemetery Trust Property consists of the following: eighteen acres, more or less, adjacent to Ebenezer United Methodist Church that was purchased June 10, 2010 and; four parcels of land containing approximately 4.179 acres as defined in the Deed of Gift dated September 22, 2011 between the Trustees of Ebenezer United Methodist Church and the Trustees of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery Trust. All legal documents associated with the Cemetery Trust are in a safe deposit box at Union First Market Bank in Warsaw, Virginia.

Policy for the Sale and Ownership of Lots

The sale of cemetery lots shall be generally limited to members of Ebenezer United Methodist Church, so long as the Church exists, and burial shall be limited to the owners or those designated by the owners or their heirs. Exceptions must be approved by a minimum of two-thirds of the Trustees of the Cemetery Trust. In general, exceptions will only be approved for non-members that have a strong family connection to Ebenezer United Methodist Church or those that have a history of supporting Ebenezer's ministry or financial health. No lot or part of a lot, or interest therein can be transferred by the owner or assigned without approval by a minimum of two-thirds of the Trustees.

Either a single cemetery lot or multiple cemetery lots can be purchased at one time. For the purpose of identification, each lot or set of lots must have stone markers at all four corners. Standard stone markers with the first initial of the purchaser's last name will be provided by the Trustees of the Cemetery Trust at the time of purchase and the cost of these markers and the installation will be included in the purchase price.

Ashes of someone who has been cremated can be spread on the ground of the lot or lots owned by the individual or the family. Otherwise, the ashes must be protected by placing them in an urn of the individual's or family's choosing and the urn must be placed in a concrete or metal vault at least one foot below the surface of the earth. Only two vaults containing cremated remains can be buried in one full size grave lot.

Prices of all lots including the cost of markers and their installation shall be set based on approval by a minimum of two-thirds of the Trustees. Terms of sale shall be cash due at the time of purchase.

Up-to-date and accurate records of all current and past sales and burials as well as all financial records will be maintained by the Treasurer of the Cemetery Trust. The Treasurer will give a detailed report to the Trustees of the Cemetery Trust at each meeting and to the Administrative Council of Ebenezer United Methodist Church at least annually so long as the Church exists.

The chair of the Cemetery Trust and the Pastor of Ebenezer United Methodist Church must be notified in advance of any burials that are to take place in property owned by the Cemetery Trust.

The Trustees shall be responsible for the appearance of all Cemetery Trust Property. Owners may plant, trim, or remove small shrubs and plants in their lot or lots. However, the planting, removal, or trimming of trees and large shrubs or plants is the sole responsibility of the Trustees. All plants, shrubs, vines, or trees placed in the Cemetery, with or without the approval of the Trustees, may be trimmed, pruned, or removed at any time without notice to owners if they have become unsightly, interfere with adjoining lots or have become a detriment to the appearance of the Cemetery. An effort will be made to contact owners whenever feasible.

In order to facilitate maintenance of the Cemetery, all flowers must be removed by the lot owners when they wither. Artificial flowers including seasonal memorials must be removed when they become unsightly or out of season. If flowers, artificial or real, are not removed by the lot owners, they will be removed when the Cemetery is cleaned.

A copy of this policy will be provided to lot owners at the time of purchase.

Current Purchase Price (Effective September 8, 2013)

The purchase price for members of Ebenezer United Methodist Church is \$200.00 (**per lot**). There will be an additional cost of \$150.00 for the purchase and installation of four standard stone corner markers for a lot or set of lots. If different corner markers are requested by the purchaser, any cost exceeding \$150.00 will be added to the purchase price.

The purchase price for non-members (those approved by exception) is \$500.00 (**per lot**). There will be an additional cost of \$150.00 for the purchase and installation of four standard stone corner markers for a lot or set of lots. If different corner markers are requested by the purchaser, any cost exceeding \$150.00 will be added to the purchase price.

NOTE: A lot is defined as a burial site for one individual.

This policy was approved unanimously by all Trustees of the Ebenezer United Methodist Church Cemetery Trust in attendance at a meeting held September 8, 2013. (Seven of the eight Trustees were present.)

This policy was amended at a meeting of the Trustees on March 22, 2015 to include requirements for the handling of cremated remains.