

Funeral Policy for Tuttle's Grove Methodist Church

One of the important ministries of Christ's church is to support those who are experiencing the loss of a loved one to death. To meet this need, Tuttle's Grove Methodist Church has the following policy in place for both members and non-members of our congregation.

Fees

Members: There is no charge for the use of the church for members of the church family who have passed away or for their children who have passed away. Honorariums for the Pastor and Church Pianist are greatly appreciated and are between the family and the Pastor and the family and the Church Pianist.

If the family desires, a light sandwich lunch will be provided for them prior to the service. If the family prefers, the church will serve them cookies and punch after the service rather than lunch beforehand.

Non-Members: Funerals for non-members are allowed with a charge of \$200 for use of the sanctuary and facilities. An additional fee of \$100 is required for use of the fellowship hall. These two fees are to be paid to the Church Treasurer prior to the service. Honorariums for the Pastor and Church Pianist should be paid to them individually before the service. Though more is greatly appreciated, a minimum of \$100 is charged for the services of the Pastor and \$50 for the services of the Church Pianist.

The church does not serve lunch or provide refreshments for non-member funerals. If a catered meal is desired in the fellowship hall, the \$100 fee applies and should be paid to the Church Treasurer along with the \$200 fee for the sanctuary and facilities. The caterer will provide all paper products and is responsible for cleanup and trash removal.

A Sample Funeral Service

The Placement of the Pall (if available)

The Greeting

Hymn or Song *optional*

Prayer

Scripture Reading

Hymn or Song *optional*

Eulogy and/or Words of Witness (stories from family and friends)

optional Gospel Reading

Sermon

The Creed or a Service of Holy Communion Hymn or Song *optional*

Prayer

The Lord's Prayer Hymn or Song *optional*

Benediction

If witnesses from family and friends are included, it is suggested that speakers be limited to 3, with each speaking no longer than five minutes, so that the service will not be too long.

Funeral Bulletins

Bulletins are the responsibility of the family through the funeral home. The presiding pastor needs a copy of the bulletin prior to the service.

Choice of Clergy and Pianist

If a guest pastor leads the funeral service, he/she must be approved by the resident pastor. If a guest pianist provides the music, he/she must meet the approval of the minister of music.

Hymn Suggestions

Music appropriate for Christian worship shall be used in the sanctuary, including the family's entrance and exit. Worship hymns from The Hymns of Faith Hymnal are preferable. Some suggested selections are as follows:

Amazing Grace
 It Is Well With My Soul
 For All the Saints
 How Great Thou Art
 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
 Because He Lives
 He Leadeth Me

Scripture Suggestions

Here are some of the most frequently used passages in scripture that Christians have turned to for comfort and encouragement in times of grief:

Isaiah 40: 1-8 and 28-31; Isaiah 43: 1-7; Isaiah 55: 1-3 and 6-13
 The Book of Psalms: 23, 42, 43, 46, 90, 91, 103, 116, 121, 130, 139, 145, 146
 Matthew 5: 4; Matthew 11: 25-30; Luke 24: 13-35; John 11: 1-44; John 12: 24-26; John 14: 1-7 and 15-29; Romans 8: 11-18 and 31-39; 1 Corinthians 15: 12-20, 35-44, and 51-55; 2 Corinthians 4: 13 - 5:9; Ephesians 1: 15-23, Ephesians 2: 1-10; 1 Peter 1: 3-9; 1 Peter 5:7
 Revelation 7: 9-17; Revelation 21: 1-7

Church Member in Attendance

At least one other official member of the church family besides the pastor and pianist should be present for a funeral service to watch over the facility and be of assistance if the need arises.

Memorial Table

The altar area cannot be used for displaying photos, albums, and/or keepsakes, etc. A single memorial table may be set up just beyond the short pew on the south side of the church for this purpose. A table from the fellowship hall can accommodate the items and must be placed back in the hall after the service. If the funeral home does not take care of this

responsibility, the church member in attendance can make sure that this request is honored.

Video Tribute

No video tributes can be shown during the service. Video presentations must cease 15 minutes prior to the service.

Video Taping of the Service

Videotaping of the funeral service is allowed provided it does not detract from the flow, meaning, and purpose of the service.

Electronic Devices

All electronic devices, including cell phones, are to be turned off before the service begins.

Reverence for the Occasion

To show respect for the family and reverence for the sanctuary, attendees are asked to sit quietly until the service begins.

Church Capacity

Under normal conditions, the sanctuary can accommodate 100 people; the fellowship hall, 60.

Cemetery Site

If the funeral home is not in charge of restoring the cemetery site at the appropriate time, it becomes the responsibility of the family.