

FUNERALS

Planning a Funeral at Westminster Presbyterian Church

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 the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.

It is expected that primary arrangements will be made with the Westminster Presbyterian Church Pastor. Typically one pastor will officiate at the service, though there are times when it will be appropriate for other pastors 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

Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the Session Council encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, including decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation, or donation for medical purposes. (W-4.1002) These plans should provide for arrangements which are simple, which bear witness to resurrection hope, and in which the Christian community is central. The Session Council is responsible for establishing general policies concerning the observance of services on the occasion of death. (W-1.4004)

The pastor welcomes opportunities to work with individuals and families to plan funerals before the time of death. The ministers encourage individuals to communicate their wishes and desires with family and friends. Whenever possible, these wishes and desires should be put in writing.

The casket/remains of the deceased may be present for the service, and may arrive at the church at least one hour prior to the announced start time. In order that worship may focus on God, and upon the gift of resurrection, rather than upon the earthly remains of the deceased, the casket will be closed during the service. A white pall may cover the casket; symbolizing our equality before God, and the joy of our inclusion in Christ's victory over death.

Military/Masonic Honors are not considered part of Christian worship, and are therefore more appropriately carried out at the funeral home or cemetery.

USHERS: The church will provide ushers for the service. The family may designate persons if they desire.

FEES: No specific fees are charged members for use of the church for a funeral, and no honorarium is required for the ministers or staff. Ministers will discuss fees and services with family for nonmembers.

FAMILY MEAL: It is traditional to provide a meal or reception for a member's family, which may be served at the church or home by the Presbyterian Women. Catering services are allowed.

MEMORIAL GIFTS: Memorial donations may be made to the church as a lasting tribute to the deceased. The church maintains a list of appropriate memorials. All undesignated memorial contributions will be placed in the General Fund to be used as directed by the Session Council.

Scheduling a Funeral at Westminster Presbyterian Church

Please contact the pastor (or the church office) as soon as possible. It is appropriate, when the family prefers a particular minister, to share this preference. It will be honored whenever possible.

The pastor will visit with the family to offer pastoral care and guidance and to begin the process of planning the funeral service.

The pastor will work with the family and funeral home to ensure your loved one's funeral is handled with the utmost dignity and respect.

Westminster Funeral and Weddings Fees

Facility Fees	Active Members	Non-Members
Church	No charge	\$300

Cemetery	\$250	\$800
Professional Services		
Pastor	No charge	To be determined by the pastor
Church Sexton	No charge	Family responsibility
Musician	\$125	Family responsibility
Repast		
Meal	No charge	Family responsibility
Flowers/plant/donation	\$50	N/A
Rehearsal Dinner		
	No charge	\$150

The church's kitchen and equipment is available upon request. The kitchen must be cleaned and all items used put away. It is not the responsibility of the custodian. A member of the kitchen staff must be present to oversee its use.

ALL required fees must be paid 15 days before scheduled event (funerals excluded).

Alcohol beverages may not be served on the premises of Westminster Presbyterian Church (USA).