



Guidelines for Funeral and Memorial Services

The resurrection is a central part 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. Just as we are baptized by God in church and are nourished by God through the church, so it is wholly appropriate that thanksgiving to God for life should be offered in church and through worship.

Our Church seeks to offer 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., the Session of Central Presbyterian Church has set forth a policy on funeral/memorial services which occur at the church.

Primary Arrangements/Pastor

It is expected that primary arrangements will be made with one of Central Presbyterian's pastors. Typically one pastor will officiate at the service, though there are times when it will be appropriate for more than one pastor to participate. Requests for the participation of a guest pastor to assist in the service must be made to Central's officiating pastor; who, if it is appropriate, will extend an invitation.

A Time of Worship

In the Presbyterian tradition a funeral/memorial service is considered a service of worship, and will be approached with the dignity and joyful celebration accorded worship. A typical order of worship will include: prelude and postlude of sacred music; hymns and songs of praise and faith; scripture lessons from the Old and New Testaments; a message – which expresses thanksgiving to God for the life of the deceased, and reminds all of Christ's resurrection and promise of eternal life; prayers of intercession and thanksgiving; a benediction. In consultation with the pastor, other elements, such as remarks from family members and friends, may be included in the service. The officiating pastor shall make the final determination on the elements of worship.

Honorariums

As a ministry of the church, the session provides the use of the sanctuary as a gift for services of Witness to the Resurrection and Celebrations of Life as represented in funeral and memorial services. The fee for non-members is \$150. As there are many people who are brought in to make this possible we ask that honorariums be provided for the following people:

- a. Organist or Pianist: \$100 (service only), \$150 if rehearsal with a soloist is required
- b. Soloist (if applicable): \$75
- c. Soundboard technician: \$25/ hour, \$50 minimum
- d. Custodian: \$25/ hour, \$100 minimum, \$150 min. with reception
- e. Pastor: customarily, an honorarium of \$150

Use of Fellowship Hall

Families may request the use of Central's Fellowship Hall, if available, for a reception following or prior to a funeral/ memorial service. The cost for the use of the hall is \$150, but this fee may be waived for members. Arrangements must be made with the church and follow the kitchen use policy if food is going to be served.

Flowers

Florists should be asked to deliver flowers no earlier than 1 ½ hours prior to the beginning of the service

Service Bulletin If desired, the church office will create a simple service bulletin.

