

GUIDELINES FOR THE BURIAL OF HUMAN ASHES IN THE MEMORIAL GARDEN OF BETHESDA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN ABERDEEN, N.C.

Bethesda Presbyterian Church wishes to make available to members a dignified and suitable place on church property for interring the cremated ashes of deceased members and their families.

There is no intent to create or designate a cemetery or a burial ground for human remains.

A statement of policies and conditions concerning and regulating the interment of ashes is necessary.

THEREFORE, it is stipulated and resolved by the Session that:

1. Cremated ashes of members of Bethesda Presbyterian Church and their families may, after request approved by the Session, be buried in the Memorial Garden. Cremated ashes of others may be buried with the approval of the Session, provided that it is the policy not to make such burial available to the general public. Such burials shall always be private.
2. The area on the side of the garden is designated as the location for burial of cremated ashes.
3. At each burial a Pastor shall officiate and provide an appropriate committal. Burial and committal normally shall be:
 - a. preceded by a funeral service in the church with burial following; or
 - b. a burial that occurs after a memorial service; or
 - c. a burial that occurs shortly after cremation, with a memorial service to be held later
4. Ashes must be in a biodegradable container, or interred with no container.
5. There shall be no reservation in advance of a particular location for burial; the location of an actual burial spot will not be marked; and no object or decoration of any kind shall be placed at such location.
6. A common plaque shall be placed in the hallway of the Church listing the names and dates of birth and death of persons whose ashes are buried.
7. The cost of burial and inscription on the memorial plaque shall be paid by a family representative of the decedent at a rate to be determined from time to time by the Session. There shall be no advance payment or collection of costs prior to the death of the decedent. The Pastor may waive payment of the fees. The fee structure is not intended to provide additional revenue to the church beyond provision of adequate financing for the burial of ashes and maintenance of the grounds and plaque.
8. Ashes buried in the churchyard may not be removed.
9. By these resolutions, duly and unanimously passed by the Session on June 20, 2004, no cemetery is created, no rights or special privileges are granted to families of those whose ashes are buried, and full right and power is reserved by the Session to encumber or sell the church grounds or any portion, to erect buildings on it or any portion, all without removing interred ashes or providing for continuation of the property as a burial site.