

MEMORY GARDEN POLICIES

Mt. Tabor United Methodist Church

Purpose: The purpose of the Memory Garden is to provide a place on the property of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church for the inurnment or scattering of the ashes of cremation for church members and their immediate families. It offers a place of beauty and serenity for our entire congregation to use for prayer, meditation, and services.

Definition of Terms:

- A. Columbarium: The church's facility that includes a group of niches and the areas immediately surrounding them for the deposit of cremains (ashes that follow cremation.)
- B. Niche: A recessed space designed to house cremains.
- C. Inurnment: The burial or placement of human cremains into a niche.
- D. Scattering Garden: A special area of the Memory Garden designated for the scattering of cremains.
- E. Burial Covenant: A document prepared and completed setting forth the terms, rights, and responsibilities of all parties involved.
- F. Memory Garden Fund: Monies set aside for perpetual care and expansion of the Memory Garden. Sources of funds include fees received for each niche or scattering, also gifts and memorials designated for this purpose.

The Memory Garden: The Memory Garden, composed of the Columbarium and Scattering Garden shall be managed by the Cemetery-Memory Garden Committee, here and thereafter referred to as the Committee, which shall be composed of the Cemetery-Memory Garden Committee with a representative of the Board of Trustees and the Senior Minister serving as ex-officio members.

Committee: The Committee shall be comprised of six (6) members at-large from the congregation, who shall serve three (3) year rotational terms, two (2) for each year. The Chairperson shall be elected by the Committee. The Committee shall be under the direction of and report annually to the Trustees and Church Council. The Committee shall designate a member, approved by the Trustees, to maintain appropriate records of all purchases, openings, removals, and to handle any and all matters relating to the operation and maintenance of the Memory Garden. This designated member shall be responsible for fulfilling all regulations required by the State of North Carolina and Forsyth County.

The Committee will meet three (3) times a year to:

- A. Review and revise these policies.
- B. Adjust fees and amend the Burial Covenant as changing conditions require.
- C. Oversee the Memory Garden Fund.
- D. Consult with the ministerial staff regarding exceptions to the stated policies.
- E. Review and arrange for necessary maintenance and landscape improvements.
- F. Recommend plans for expansion of the Memory Garden when needed.
- G. Any changes are to be approved by the Trustees and Church Council.

Columbarium: The Columbarium shall consist of wall and in-ground niches, uniform in size, for the inurnment of the human cremains. Each niche shall be covered with a metal plate, uniform in size, with a nameplate to be engraved with the name, dates of birth and death of the deceased at the time of inurnment. No epitaphs will be allowed because of space limitations.

The Scattering Garden: The Scattering Garden will be an area designated for the scattering of human cremains. There will be a Memory Wall, which will consist of plaques uniform in size, engraved with the name, dates of birth and death of each person whose cremains have been scattered in the designated area of the Memory Garden.

Eligible Persons: Eligible persons are members of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church and their immediate family, defined as: spouse, children ages 0-18 (whether natural, adopted, foster, or step-child) of a member, and former or present ministers of Mount Tabor United Methodist Church. Inurnment and scattering are restricted to human cremains only.

Reservations: Reservations are encouraged but not required. Those wishing to use the Memory Garden must sign a Burial Covenant indicating a knowledge and acceptance of the rules, regulations and policies. Specific niche locations will be assigned at the time of need. Inurnment will be in the next niche available according to a previously specified order. Adjoining niches may be reserved for a spouse with assignment of both niches occurring upon inurnment of the first spouse and payment for both. If, after a space is reserved, circumstances dictate that the niche is no longer desired, the reservation may be canceled through written notification to the Committee. One-half of the reservation fees may be refunded upon approval of the Committee. Should an eligible person die without a reservation, the administrator or next-of-kin may request inurnment or scattering, pay the reservation fee, and complete a Burial Covenant.

Reservation Fees: The reservation fee for a niche is \$1,000.00 dollars during the initial offering and \$1,500.00 thereafter. The total payment is required at the time the reservation is made with the signing of the Burial Covenant.

There is a fee of \$300.00 dollars for the scattering of the cremains in the Memory Garden.

The reservation fee may be revised as future costs dictate, but all prepaid reservations will be honored.

Part of the reservation fees will be held in escrow in the designated Memory Garden Fund. The fees include the following items which the church will provide:

Niche

- A. Opening and closing of the niche.
- B. A container, an aluminum cylinder, designed to fit the niche.
- C. An engraved nameplate containing the full name dates of birth and death. The Committee will arrange for uniform engraving and installation on the niche.
- D. Name will be placed in the Book of Memory.
- E. Perpetual Care, including future expansions of the Columbarium as needed.

Scattering Garden

- A. An engraved nameplate containing the full name and dates of birth and death. The committee will arrange for uniform engraving and installation on the Memory Wall.
- B. Name will be placed in the Book of Memory.
- C. Perpetual Care including future expansions of the Memory Garden as needed.

Transfers: No Burial Covenant shall be transferred by a purchaser, a will, and intestate succession or otherwise except upon a majority vote of the Committee. Consent, if given by the

Committee, shall be documented and written on the face of the Burial Covenant. In the event of any unauthorized transfer, the Burial Covenant shall become null and void and the niche shall revert to Mount Tabor United Methodist Church. The purchase price shall be forfeited as liquidated damages.

Book of Memory: A Book of Memory shall be kept as a permanent record in the church office. This book shall give:

- A. Name, dates of birth and death of persons whose cremains are inurned or scattered in the Memory Garden.
- B. The names of the next of kin.
- C. The location of all assigned niches.
- D. A niche diagram with assigned numbers.

Ordained Minister: Only an ordained minister serving Mount Tabor United Methodist Church or the minister's designee shall be authorized to scatter or place the cremains in the niche. The scattering or inurnment shall be at the convenience of this persona and the family.

Flowers and Plants: Only fresh flowers and live plants may be placed in designated areas during a memorial service and on special times of the year such as Easter and Christmas and other holidays. All flowers and plants may be removed at the discretion of the Committee and ministerial staff after five (5) days. Memorials and gifts will be accepted for the Garden plantings which will be determined by the Committee.

Right of Inurnment: Purchasers of the Burial Covenant understand that the Committee will manage the facility to the best of its ability, but neither Mount Tabor United Methodist Church nor the Committee is responsible for any damage or injury to the Memory Garden or its contents.

MOUNT TABOR UNITED METHODIST CHURCH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO RELOCATE THE COLUMBARIUM IF NECESSARY.

To request a Burial Covenant, call the church office or a Committee member.