

Funeral Planning

Name of Funeral Home to be used :

Location of funeral service (church/chapel/other site) :

Site for internment/burial (columbarium, cemetery, other arrangements)

Type of burial – cremation, embalming of body, no embalming (“green burial”)

If you are choosing a casket, personal preference for the casket?

Are your funeral arrangements pre-paid? If so, where can the family find the documents?

Where is your will located?

Besides family, are there special friends you want contacted when you die? If so, add names and contact numbers.

The Basic Structure of a United Methodist Service of Death and Resurrection

Gathering

Words of Grace

Greeting

Hymn

Prayer

Scripture Readings

Sermon/Homily

Words of Witness (Eulogies – open, pre-selected, or not at all)

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn

Dismissal of Blessing

Questions about the Service

What pastor(s) would you like to help lead the service?

Do you want congregational hymns or special music (solos, choral music, etc.)?

Are there any special musicians you would like to invite to participate?

What hymns or special music would you like? (2 are typical, but more is certainly fine)

Preference for organ or piano music?

Is there a reason behind these musical selections?

Do you want a time of Words of Witness? If so – open to anyone present to share? Open to pre-selected people? If so, who would you like to speak?

Scripture readings? (Psalm 23 typical to read in unison – 1 to 2 readings in addition is typical – can be more). Can choose typical Scriptures (see list) or can choose Scriptures that speak to topics you are passionate about (gardening, fishing, evangelism, and so on)

Are any of these favorite Bible verses/passages? If so, why are they a favorite to you?

Have you been baptized?

Would you like the family to be seated and the service begin (like a typical worship service) or would you like to have the congregation stand and the family process in (more formal)?

Other Questions

Would you like a slideshow prior to the service?

What picture would you like for the front of the bulletin? (If you do not want a personal photo, we can use a church logo)

Do you want the church to do the bulletin or an outside printer?

Where would you like memorials to go to?

Would you like an obituary? Who would you like to write that obituary? Is there anything in particular you want included (degrees, achievements, organizations you are a part of, etc.)?

Are there any special arrangements/suggestions for the funeral service not included elsewhere in this document? (i.e. member of the masons, military honors, other considerations?)

What I want people to remember about me (from early childhood, adolescent years, early adulthood, later in life):

Possible Old Testament Readings

Psalm 23, Psalm 130 (typical) other possible Psalms 42, 43, 46, 90, 91, 103, 116, 121, 139, 145, 146
Isiah 40:1-8, Isaiah 40:28-31
Exodus 14:5-14, 19-31

Possible New Testament Readings

1 Corinthians 15 (selections)
Revelation 21:1-17
Romans 8 (selections)
2 Corinthians 4:5-18
Ephesians 1:15-23, 2:1-10
1 Peter 1:3-9, 13, 21-25
Revelation 7:2-3, 9-17

Possible Gospel Readings

John 11:1-4, 20-27, 32-35, 38-44
John 14:1-4, 18-19, 25-27
Luke 24:13-35

Possible Hymns

378 Amazing Grace
557 Blest Be the Tie That Binds
710 Faith of Our Fathers
77 How Great Thou Art
707 Hymn of Promise
103 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
314 In the Garden
488 Jesus, Remember Me
133 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms
57 O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing
143 On Eagle's Wings
368 My Hope is Built
703 Swing Low, Sweet Chariot
504 The Old Rugged Cross