

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

A Place to Belong ~ A Place to Become ~ A Power to Bless

1350 Oak Ridge Turnpike

Oak Ridge, TN 37830

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First United Methodist Church Memorial Garden Policy Statement

The purpose of First United Methodist Church's Memorial Garden is to provide an appropriate, consecrated, and maintained memorial site for the interment of ashes of First United Methodist members and their families. The Garden will be maintained in perpetuity by a Memorial Garden Committee serving under the guidance and direction of First United Methodist Church Trustees Committee.

- I. Interment of ashes will be extended to First United Methodist Church members and clergy, past and present, and their immediate families. Exceptions to this policy may be made upon request to the Memorial Garden Committee.
- II. Interment will be arranged by a pastor of First United Methodist Church, and plots will be assigned in consultation with the Memorial Garden Committee. A Garden Grid Plan noting occupied and reserved plots will be maintained in the business office. Plots will be numbered and will, to the extent possible, be assigned in sequence. To the extent practicable, the Memorial Garden Committee will attempt to accommodate the wishes of persons who have paid the applicable interment fee to arrange for interment of the ashes of family members in contiguous plots.
- III. Funeral and/or memorial services must be conducted by a current pastor of First United Methodist Church or others qualified to perform the service with the permission of the senior pastor of First United Methodist Church. The service may be held in the church or in the Memorial Garden.
- IV. The ashes are to be interred in a biodegradable container or deposited directly in the ground.
- V. A permanent bronze memorial marker with nameplates affixed will be the only memorial in the garden. Individual bronze nameplates for each person interred in the Memorial Garden with year of birth and death will be provided by the Memorial Garden Committee.
- VI. There will be no personal floral arrangements or other decorations within the Memorial Garden (except at the time of interment).
- VII. Application for future interment with appropriate fees can be made at any time. Payment in full is to be received prior to interment. Fee for interment including bronze nameplate is \$500.00. The purchase of interment rights in the Memorial Garden is not tax deductible. However, donations to the Memorial Garden Fund are tax deductible and may be made at any time.

- VIII. The purchase of interment rights is nontransferable. In the event that a reserved plot is no longer desired, it must be transferred back to First United Methodist Church Memorial Garden Committee with the purchaser receiving a reimbursement of payment less the administration fee of \$200.00.
- IX. Upon approval of the application by the Memorial Garden Committee, an acceptance agreement will be issued. The application and the acceptance, together with these Memorial Garden Policies, will constitute a legal contract between the applicant and First United Methodist Church. The original contract will be kept in a permanent file in the business office. A copy of the contract will be given to the applicant.
- X. The amounts of the fees may be changed by the Memorial Garden Committee with the approval of the Trustees Committee.
- XI. Receipts from fees will be held in a separate account to be administered by the Memorial Garden Committee with an annual report to the Trustees Committee. Fees will be used for all costs related to the Memorial Garden, including initial development, capital expenditures required in connection with the Garden, and perpetual maintenance and care.
- XII. It is anticipated that the Memorial Garden will be available for interment of ashes in perpetuity. In the event that all plots are used, ashes may be reverently interred in previously used plots. It is intended, to the extent practicable, that interment of ashes in previously used plots be accomplished in the order in which the plots were initially used.

The First United Methodist Church Trustees Committee specifically reserves the right to promulgate policies in the future which differ from these policies. Any future policies would in no way affect the rights of parties to this contract.

_____/_____
Initial Date