

## OAK RIDGE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

### FUNERAL POLICY

The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to (life and)...death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.

W-4.1000<sup>1</sup>

#### Policies and Practices

##### Officiant

The minister of Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church will officiate at each funeral and/or committal. Additional minister(s), family members, friends, and members of the congregation may be invited by the minister to assist in the service.

##### The Service

The funeral is a service of witness to the resurrection; this should be its primary focus.

The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. W-4.10003

This service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. In order that the attention in the service be directed to God, when a casket is present, it ordinarily is closed.

It may be covered with a funeral pall. The service may include other actions common to the community of faith and its cultures when these actions do not detract from or diminish the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately. W-4.10005

##### Music

The Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church Director of Music or Church Accompanist will ordinarily provide music for funerals. Guest musicians, including soloists, must be approved by the Director of Music.

All music will be approved by the Director of Music. All music must be liturgically and theologically appropriate. Appropriate music includes hymns, psalm settings, and spirituals. Congregational hymns are appropriate and encouraged.

1. Directory for Worship; *Book of Order* --- Presbyterian Church (USA)

Additional Items

- Flowers: Session recommends minimal flower arrangements for the sanctuary. Other arrangements may be placed in the narthex. When placing flower arrangements on the steps or chancel, special attention must be given so that the chancel is accessible to worship leaders.
- Casket: When a casket is present in the sanctuary, it may be covered with a pall as deemed appropriate by the minister, the family and in keeping with our reformed Presbyterian heritage. A pall is a large cloth which represents the covering of the Christian by the righteousness of Christ, and alludes to the baptismal waters of death and new life in Jesus. Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church has a pall which may be used, upon request, for the service. Due to the risk of stains or damage, nothing may be placed on the pall.
- Civil and Military Ceremonies: When requested by the family as they work with the minister to plan the service, an American flag may be used as a pall. However, civil and military ceremonies may take place only outside the sanctuary.
- Bulletin (or printed order of worship): The church office staff will ordinarily produce the bulletin (or printed order of worship) for funerals. Special requests should be made as early as possible.
- Committals and Interments: Committals or interments may be held before or after a funeral upon arrangement with the minister.
- Columbarium: The columbarium and memorial garden provide a special place for Christian burial where deceased loved ones can be remembered and celebrated. Interment in the columbarium is open to all members and former members of Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church and their families. The one-time purchase payment includes one or two urns (each niche can accommodate two urns), inscription of name(s) and dates on the niche cover, and perpetual care of the columbarium and garden. Niche locations may be selected and reserved at the time of purchase. Niches may not be sold or transferred except with the express permission of Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church. For columbarium inquiries and usage, please contact the church office.

## Planning a Funeral at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church

Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the Session encourages members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, including decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation, or donation for medical purposes.

The minister welcomes opportunities to work with individuals and families to plan funerals before the time of death. The minister encourages individuals to communicate their wishes and desires with family and friends. Whenever possible, these wishes and desires should be put in writing---preferably using the Planning Worksheet---filed with the appropriate parties.

## Scheduling a Funeral at Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church

- Please contact the minister as soon as possible. If you have not contacted the church when you contact the funeral home, please ask the funeral director to call the church immediately.
- The minister will visit with the family to offer pastoral care and guidance and will begin the process of planning the funeral service. The minister will work with the family and funeral home to ensure your loved one's funeral is handled with the utmost dignity and respect.

Receptions and/or Meals: The Deacons may offer several options at the time of death. Possible options include:

Refreshments during a family visitation

A meal for the family at the church before or after the funeral

A meal for the family delivered to the family's home

The Deacons will work with the family and minister to plan and organize.

Recording of the Service:

At the family's request an audio recording of the service, held in the Sanctuary, will be made. When making service arrangements with the minister, please indicate your desire for a CD.

Adopted by the Session and Worship Core Ministry of Oak Ridge Presbyterian Church

on (date).