

Funeral Service Preferences

In the event of my death, I would like to make the following advanced planning directives related to my funeral service. As much as possible, I would like my family and Pastor to have the following information available to them for the planning of my funeral. A digital and paper copy of this will remain (confidentially) at the church office.

Please list your full name _____

Date and place born _____

Date and place baptized (if applicable) _____

The date this form was completed _____

1. THE SERVICE

I would like the service to take place:

- in my home church, which is:

- at this funeral home:

- I prefer that the funeral service take place at the church and the committal service take place at the graveside.

- I prefer that both the funeral and committal service take place at the graveside or burial site.

Regarding the service, I prefer:

- A memorial service**, at which my body or ashes (remains) are not present
- A funeral service**, at which my body or ashes are present
- When possible, I prefer an open casket
- I prefer a closed casket

I prefer that the service for committal of my body take place:

- Before the memorial service
- After the memorial service or funeral
- I would like a viewing to be held
- I do not desire a viewing to be held

2. THE DISPOSITION OF MY BODY

I prefer that my body be:

- Buried
- Cremated
- Donated to medical research, for which I have made the following arrangements: _____

Regarding my ashes after cremation, I prefer that my ashes be:

- buried in the ground
 - committed to a columbarium
 - scattered at this location (local laws permitting):
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3. THE SCRIPTURE READING FOR THE MESSAGE:

(feel free to share why this text is meaningful)

Psalms 23, 116, 139

I Corinthians 15

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

1 Peter 1:3-4

4. ELEMENTS OF THE SERVICE:

Processional

The most liturgically effective way of bringing the body of the deceased into the place of worship is in a processional, after the congregation has assembled and been seated. The usual order: Minister, lay leaders, pallbearers with the coffin (feet first), and the family (if not previously seated.) The closed coffin should be placed in a position perpendicular to the communion table.

If the body has been cremated and the urn is present, it may be carried by a pallbearer in procession and place on an appropriate stand in full view of the congregation as the people assemble. Alternatively the urn may be placed on its stand before the people assemble.

Call to Worship/Scripture sentences of comfort and words of welcome

Psalm, Hymn of Praise

Confession and Pardon

The Peace

Psalm, Hymn

In memoriam (brief summary of someone's life.....suggested time allotment 7 minutes)

Eulogy (prepared speech of tribute.....suggested time allotment.....no more than 12 minutes)

Musical Selection

Personal remembrance(s) (personal reflections of family member....suggested time allotment, no more than 5 minutes per)

Hymn

Readings from Scripture

Sermon/Meditation by officiating minister

Prayer

Hymn

Creed (for example Apostles, Nicene, Heidelberg Q and A 1)

Optional Lord's Supper

In the case of a funeral of a church member, it may be appropriate to celebrate the sacrament of the Lord 's Supper. This can provide a rich opportunity to proclaim and enact the resurrection faith. As long as the presiding minister is careful not to compromise the Supper, the following may appear in the printed order of service and /or may be spoken by the minister: "The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is open to all baptized Christians who profess the Lord Jesus Christ as their saviour."

Commendation

Blessing

Recessional

5. HYMNS AND SONGS FOR THE FUNERAL SERVICE:

A few examples:

83 Children of the Heavenly Father

451 Be Still My Soul

428 When Peace like a River

518 Give Thanks for Life

521 Abide with me

529 For All the Saints

(Many more available in the Death and Life Eternal Section of the Worship and Rejoice hymnal)

6. COMMITTAL SERVICE:

(In the funeral service or at the graveside):

The committal service is a brief and simple final farewell. It may include a brief scripture lesson, a prayer and very brief comments by the minister to comfort the family. The committal service should close with a blessing.

7. PARTICIPANTS

Officiant/Pastor

Readers:

Speakers: I would like the following people to give a eulogy or share their reflections on my life:

- In Memoriam: _____
- Eulogy: _____
- Personal remembrance: _____

Organist, Accompanist, Soloist(s) Preferred Musical Selections:

Pallbearers *(Named Preferences)*

8. LUNCH/FELLOWSHIP:

Our preferences for food and refreshments are as follows:

9. FAMILY: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

I would like my Pastor to know the following about my life and family:

(Significant dates, events, life experiences, positions held, places of services in church etc.)

By means of the Funeral Service, I would like my family, friends, and descendants to know:

10. OTHER RELEVANT INFORMATION FOR MY FUNERAL:

My will and other important documents are located:

The executor of my estate: _____

I have funeral insurance with: _____

I would like memorial contributions to be made to:

My preferences for flowers:

My preferences for a condolence card:

I have compiled an address list and it can be found at:

Here is other information I would like my family to have: (family grave? Military/Law-enforcement honors?, etc. etc.)
