

Meridian Pastoral Charge Funeral Policy

Funerals in the Christian Tradition

In the Christian tradition, funerals and memorial services are the way in which we say “goodbye” to our loved ones.

The funeral service is designed as a time to both mourn the death and celebrate the life of the person who has died.

The hope proclaimed by our faith is that the love of God is stronger than anything in all creation, even death. The Good News of Christ’s resurrection shows us this, and gives us the promise of eternal life. It is the promise of eternal life that we uphold and celebrate in the funeral service.

It is also a time to share stories and recollections of the person who has died and to give thanks to God for the life shared with us.

Services In Our Churches

It is our hope as a church that we can provide a service of comfort and hope in your time of grief.

The funeral or memorial service may be held in one of our churches, at the funeral home Chapel, or at the graveside. Arrangements may be made with the minister in conjunction with the funeral home.

Please ensure that the minister has been contacted prior to setting the date and time for the service.

The minister will meet with the family prior to the service to plan the service and discuss details of your loved one’s life.

Please feel free to ask a family member or friend to do an Eulogy. We also welcome the participation of family and friends in the service through the reading of scripture or singing solos, or other readings such as poetry .

It is also usual to have between two or three congregational hymns sung during the funeral service. These may be picked in consultation with the minister. The use of other music may also be discussed with the minister.

The funeral home often provides remembrance cards and also can

provide a bulletin for the service. If families wish to have bulletins provided by the church it may be negotiated with the secretary of the charge.

Services may take place at the Church or in the chapel at the Funeral Home. If the Church is too small to hold a service another appropriate location may be found within the community to conduct the service. These arrangements may be made in consultation with the minister, funeral home and appropriate persons in the community. Funeral services also include the burial which takes place after the service.

If a church group is required to serve lunch please let the minister know, and a contact will be given to you.

Policy of The United Church Of Canada

It is the policy of the United Church of Canada that all funerals through one of our congregations are presided over by the covenanted minister of the Pastoral Charge.

The involvement of another minister is at the discretion of the minister. A family wishing to include another minister is asked to discuss his/her involvement with the covenanted minister of Meridian

Charge. Also if another minister wishes involvement with a service, arrangements must be made with the covenanted minister (this is in accordance with The Manual, section 365, 2007 edition).

The fees for Funeral services are as follows:

Minister: Minimum of \$200.00 or as set by the funeral home.

Pianist / organist: \$ 60.00

Church rental:

Starbuck - \$150.00

Avonlea- \$100.00

Sanford - \$100.00