

Central Presbyterian Church Memory Garden Policy

THE MEMORY GARDEN CONCEPT

Since ancient times, Christians have buried their dead in the churchyard, symbolizing the continuum of faith from birth to death, baptism to burial. In keeping with this tradition, Central Presbyterian Church hereby establishes a Memory Garden to receive the cremated ashes (cremains) of Central's members and their families. A landscaped area on the south side of the sanctuary, immediately behind the McDonald Parlor, is set aside as the Memory Garden and as a quiet setting for reflection and prayer. On the outside back wall of the McDonald Parlor a memorial plaque shall be placed to list the names of those whose cremains are placed in the Garden.

WHO MAY USE THE GARDEN

The Garden will be used to receive the cremains of Central Presbyterian Church members, their immediate family members (spouses, parents or children) and former church members. Deceased persons whose ashes are not interred in the Memory Garden may be memorialized in other ways and in other places in the church facilities rather than on the Memory Garden plaque. It is not permissible to use the Garden to scatter or bury cremains of family pets nor have the names of pets recorded on the Memorial Garden plaque. Any questions of eligibility are to be referred to the Session,

IS THE GARDEN A CEMETERY?

The Memory Garden is not a cemetery in the usual sense. Cremains only may be buried in a small hole in the Garden, or scattered about the Garden, They become a part of the life of the Garden. No urns or other containers are to be used. Markers designating deceased persons are not allowed at any place in the Memory Garden.

HOW THE NAMES OF THE DECEASED PERSONS ARE TO BE RECORDED

On a plaque on the outside back wall of the McDonald Parlor there will be space for a two-line name plate to record the name and years of birth and death for each person whose cremains are placed in the Garden. Family or loved ones of the deceased will be responsible for the cost of each name plate, which may be ordered through the Central Church office. The Session Record book will record the death and interment as a part of the permanent record of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

COST FOR USE OF THE GARDEN

There shall be no fee for the burial or scattering of cremains in the Memory Garden. Survivors, if they wish, may contribute to the Memory Garden Fund for the maintenance of the Garden. Cost of the two-line name plate for the Memory Garden Plaque will be the responsibility of the family or loved one of the deceased,

HOW THE GARDEN IS TO BE MAINTAINED

Expenses are to be met by gifts to the Memory Garden Fund. Ultimately, Central Presbyterian Church assumes the moral responsibility of maintaining the Garden for the purpose intended.

HOW INTERMENT IS TO BE CARRIED OUT

Survivor counseling and memorial services shall be carried out by Central's Pastors or persons appointed by them. A brief service in the Memory Garden may follow a Funeral or Memorial Service in the sanctuary of the church. The brief ceremony in the Garden will be led by the pastor (or other minister), and the cremains shall be placed in the Garden in one of two ways:

- The cremains may be buried in a small hole (large enough to contain and to cover the cremains).
Earth removed from this hole is to be used to cover the buried cremains.
- The cremains may be scattered at any place in the Memory Garden.

If no Funeral or Memorial Service is held, families may choose to have a private Memorial Service conducted in the Memory Garden at a time selected by the family and Central's Pastor.

Date Adopted by the Session: December 16, 2007

Attested and Signed by Clerk or Moderator: Wiley Fite, Clerk