

In Your Time of Grief

The death of a loved one is always difficult. In this time of grief we wish to extend to you our heartfelt condolences and a promise of prayerful assistance. As a spiritual community of care, we know how overwhelming this time can be. In the spirit of Jesus' compassion for others, we wish to walk with you in any way we can in this time of grief and thanksgiving, regardless of your spiritual path or faith perspective. One of the ministers would be willing to meet with you and your family, at the earliest mutually convenient time, to support you and arrange for a memorial service or a funeral. The office is open Tuesdays through Fridays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM. The phone number is 482-1587.

The Service

In the face of death, Christians proclaim that each person has been created for eternal life. In spite of this hope, when a loved one dies our emotions are mixed. We trust in God's promise of eternal life, but we are reluctant to say good-bye. The funeral or memorial service acknowledges this tension, reflecting the need to proclaim two stories - the story of God's love

made known through Jesus, and the story of the person who has died. Thus the memorial or funeral service celebrates the life of the person who has died, giving time to say good bye to your loved one as you support one another in this time of grief and receive support from the larger community. More than that, in the service we take time to reflect on the meaning of life, death and life beyond death and ultimately to commend the deceased into the care of God, the Author of Life.

During your time of preparation, the minister will discuss the components of the service with you and your family, ensuring that the service is carefully planned and giving special attention to the content and length of the service. The *chapel* is available for services when 60 or fewer people are expected. The *sanctuary* may be chosen for services of any size.

If your loved one has been cremated, the urn may be brought in to the sanctuary and placed on the communion table as part of an opening procession. Alternatively, it may be placed in the sanctuary prior to the service. A photo of the deceased may be placed on the communion table with the urn.

When a coffin is present for the service, you may arrange for a pre-service time of viewing in the chapel; the coffin will not be open during or after the service. If a funeral home is not involved in the service, the family is responsible for providing ushers.

Memorial Garden

If the deceased was a member of Robertson-Wesley and has been cremated, the family may choose to place the ashes in our Memorial Garden. This is an area between the south-west entrance and the chapel wall. A small engraved plate (with the person's name, and years of birth and death) will be placed on a memorial plaque in the chapel; some details of the person's life will be included in the Memorial Book in the chapel. The service in the church would conclude with the committal (except in winter, when the ashes would be stored in the vault until spring). A formal agreement is signed by families choosing this option.

Reception after Service

It is important for a grieving family to meet with other family members and caring friends after the service.

Further, it is important for family and friends to take time to refresh themselves before journeying on. These needs can be accommodated through a reception in *Memorial Hall* after the service. The charge for use of the hall is \$100.00 for members of Robertson-Wesley and \$150.00 for non-members.

If you wish to have a reception, our catering committee is available to help you with arrangements. Our office administrator or the minister conducting the service can give you the contact information for the catering committee. When you call, the committee representative will discuss with you the expected number of guests, menu, and total cost based on the number of people attending the reception. Payment is to be made before the service by cash or a cheque made payable to "Robertson-Wesley United Church Women."

A table can be provided for memorabilia, photographs, guest book, and the like. Flowers from the service will be placed on the buffet table and elsewhere in the hall. Flowers are to be removed by the family unless previous arrangements are made. Leftover food can be taken home or delivered to a social service agency

like the Bissell Centre, Operation Friendship (for seniors), the Youth Emergency Shelter, or a men's or women's shelter if that is the preference. The committee needs permission from you for food to be brought to one of these agencies.

Remuneration

For non-members of Robertson-Wesley United Church, an all-inclusive \$700.00 fee is suggested for a memorial or funeral service. This includes the use of the sanctuary, the services of our Music Director and an honorarium for the clergy involved. If a soloist is supplied by the church remuneration for him or her is normally \$100. If a reception is held in the church, there will be an added fee for use of space.

For supporting families of Robertson-Wesley there is no charge for use of the sanctuary / chapel or the custodian's time. The Music Director's remuneration has been set at \$125.00. Remuneration for a soloist is as above.

The ordained or commissioned clergy have no set "fee" for funerals and memorial services. A family is free to recognize their services or services provided by other staff, or to make a donation to the church.



Funerals & Memorials **at Robertson- Wesley**



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