

**CEMETERY GUIDELINES AT
LITTLE RIVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
LITTLE RIVER, SOUTH CAROLINA**

PREAMBLE: The Little River United Methodist Church Cemetery is maintained by the Board of Trustees for the burial of church members in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in this document.

CEMETERY STEWARD: The Board of Trustees will appoint three (3) members to serve on the Cemetery Committee not to exceed 3 years. One of these members will be appointed as Cemetery Steward or Chairperson. The committee shall operate under the leadership of the Board of Trustees for the control and maintenance of the cemetery plots, columbarium garden and overall grounds maintenance and care.

CEMETERY MAINTENANCE EXPENSES: A "Cemetery Fund" to cover the expenses associated with the maintenance for the cemetery will be established.

PLOT FEES: Upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the Church Council has set a plot fee of \$500 for each remaining plot to any eligible family member. Payment of a plot fee only grants the use of a particular plot; it does not in any way convey title to property, establish a lease agreement or in any way deprive, release or impair the Board of Trustees from exercising their due authority and responsibilities for the cemetery property.

No one may sell or transfer their rights to any other individual.

Should a person desire to relinquish their rights to use the plot, **no money will be refunded** and the rights to the use of the plot will be given to another member. Furthermore, if and when a payee fails to adhere to these guidelines and procedures, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to cancel any and all agreements.

COLUMBARIUM:

Niche Fees: Upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees, the Church Council has set a fee for a single Niche of \$850 or \$1600 for a double Niche for each remaining niche to any eligible family member.

Payment of a Niche fee only grants the use of a particular Niche; it does not in any way convey title to property, establish a lease agreement or in any way deprive, release or impair the Board of Trustees from exercising their due authority and responsibilities for the cemetery property.

No one may sell or transfer their rights to any other individual.

Should a person desire to relinquish their rights to use the Niche, **no money will be refunded** and the rights to the use of the Niche will be given to another member. Furthermore, if and when a payee fails to adhere to these guidelines and procedures, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to cancel any and all agreements.

ENTITLEMENT: Any member of Little River United Methodist Church is entitled to be buried in the church cemetery on a space available basis. His or her spouse and immediate children only, also qualify for burial even if one spouse may not be a member of the church.

PROCEDURE: A person or persons desiring burial in the church cemetery shall contact the Cemetery Steward for plot selection and assignment. All plot fees shall be paid in full at the time of plot assignment. A fee of \$100.00 will be charged for grave opening to be paid through the undertaker or directly to the church.

VAULTS: Vaults or a grave liner shall be required for all interments.

MARKERS: Following the assignment of plots (including previously assigned plots) the plot shall be marked with a 4 x 4 x 6 granite marker denoting family name. This marker must be bought and installed by the family within 90 days. The cost of the marker will be in addition to the cost of the cemetery plot. The church will not be responsible for vandalism or damage to grave markers and flower vases.

FLOWERS: The Steward is authorized to remove and dispose of all live flowers from the cemetery grounds ten (10) days following the day of the funeral. Periodically all old and faded artificial arrangements will be removed and disposed of away from the church grounds.

FUNERAL HOMES: Funeral homes shall contact the Cemetery Steward before any grave is opened in the church cemetery. All excess dirt shall be removed from the cemetery. When a grave is closed, all dirt will be tamped as the grave is refilled.

RECORDS: Two (2) copies of these Cemetery Guidelines and Procedures shall be signed by the person electing a plot and paying the plot fees. One copy shall be given to the purchaser and the other copy will be retained for the church's records.

I have read and understand the guidelines within this document.

Date: _____

By: _____

Signature

Revised
May 2011

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May 2011