



## Planning for a UCiM\* Funeral/Memorial Service

---

*Jesus said, "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)*

The death of a loved one is a time to recall the miracle of life, to give thanks for living and to mourn the loss. We acknowledge the pain of death, console the bereaved, celebrate the life of the deceased, and offer thanks to God. As a resurrection people, we also declare the promise of hope from the United Church creed: "In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone."

The funeral or memorial service is meant to be primarily a celebration of life. God's word is read and proclaimed and prayers are offered. A eulogy, often prepared and presented by family or friends, is common. Music is an important and enriching aspect of the gathering. The funeral is also a time for strengthening each other through community and a time of refreshments and socializing enables that well.

The service can take place with the casket present, with or without the ashes, and/or a committal service at the grave site, which may be held either before or after the main service or on a different date. The service can be in the sanctuary at UCiM or at a funeral home, or only at the graveside. (Costs below are for services in the UCiM building.)

### **Space**

The Sanctuary has seating for up to 200 people (larger funerals are possible with adaptations to seating that can be discussed). There is a grand piano, sound system, hearing assist headphones, digital projection and screens and a room with speakers for families with children. The church is fully accessible. Parking is on site.

### **Reception**

A reception in the Fellowship Hall can be arranged. Our women's group (UCW) cater funerals held in the church, unless they are unavailable. A menu detailing options is available.

### **Bulletins and Recordings**

Our office will produce a digital presentation for hymns and prayers and if desired bulletins (programs) can be created. We offer livestreaming/video recording, if a trained technician is available. An audio recording of the service can be provided. We provide advice on preparing a tribute slideshow/video.

### **Flowers**

Flowers can be placed in the church for the funeral. No highly scented flowers (such as lilies) are permitted. Pictures of your loved one as well as other photographs or meaningful symbols associated with their life may be displayed in the sanctuary or the foyer.

\*Please inquire with the office for renting space for a non-UCiM lead memorial service.

## Service

A UCiM minister presides at all funeral services. Participation by other ministers can be accommodated at our minister's discretion. Our minister meets with the family in advance to discuss your wishes and plan for the service. Services can include secular readings and readings from other traditions in addition to Christian scriptures. Memorial rituals, such as Military or Eastern Star, can be included. A slideshow can be shown as part of the service.

The church works cooperatively with the Funeral Home if they are present at the service. Ushers are recommended, especially for larger funerals.

## Music

Our pianist plays for services. We can arrange for a soloist. A soloist is highly recommended when there are hymns as part of the service. Other musicians may be included and should be discussed with the minister when the service is being arranged. Pre-recorded music is also a possibility.

## In Memoriam

Ashes may be scattered in the UCiM Serenity Memorial Garden and a plaque added to the Tree of Life. Please inquire for more information. Families are encouraged to consider a donation to the UCiM Memorial Fund or to the general fund of the church as a tribute to your loved one. We also have a Memorial Book to remember loved ones. Once a year, those who have died, are remembered in Sunday worship.

## Fees \*required

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Custodial and Administration*                       | \$190.00   |
| Minister  | \$260.00   |
| Audio Technician* (sound and slides)                | \$100.00   |
| Pianist*  | \$150.00   |
| Soloist (optional)                                  | \$150.00   |
| Event Assistant*                                    | \$100.00   |
| Bulletins (optional)                                | \$40 per 100   |
| Live Streaming (optional)                           | \$100 (only offered when trained technician available)   |
| Reception (optional)                                | UCW catering from \$6 to \$12 per person (if available)  |
| Outside catering                                    | \$140 for kitchen use and coffee service; event assistants for serving and clean-up \$100 per person |
| Fellowship Hall (only needed if there is reception) | \$190.00 (waived if UCW is catering)   |
| Set-up of tables                                    | \$40   |