



Cary Presbyterian Church Funeral Policy



The resurrection is a central doctrine of the Christian faith and shapes Christians' attitudes and responses to [life and]... death. Death brings loss, sorrow, and grief to all. In the face of death Christians affirm with tears and joy the hope of the gospel. Christians do not bear bereavement in isolation but are sustained by the power of the Spirit and the community of faith. The church offers a ministry of love and hope to all who grieve.
W-4.1000¹

Policies and Practices

Officiants

One of the ministers of Cary Presbyterian Church will officiate at each funeral and/or committal. Additional ministers, family members, friends, and members of the congregation may be invited by the minister to assist in the service.

The Service

The funeral is a service of witness to the resurrection; this should be its primary focus.

The service on the occasion of death ordinarily should be held in the usual place of worship in order to join this service to the community's continuing life and witness to the resurrection. W-4.1003

This service may be observed before or after the committal of the body. In order that the attention in the service be directed to God, when a casket is present, it ordinarily is closed. It may be covered with a funeral pall. The service may include other actions common to the community of faith and its cultures when these actions do not detract from or diminish the Christian understanding of death and resurrection. The service shall be complete in itself, and any fraternal, civic, or military rites should be conducted separately. W-4.1005

Music

The CPC Director of Music will ordinarily provide music for funerals.

Guest musicians, including soloists and guest organists, must be approved by the Director of Music.

All music will be approved by the Director of Music.

All music must be liturgically appropriate. Appropriate music includes hymns, psalms and spirituals. Congregational hymns are appropriate, but are ordinarily limited to two.

¹ Directory for Worship; *Book of Order* – Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Music Rehearsals

Any musical rehearsals must be scheduled at separate times.

Additional rehearsals might impact the Director of Music and musicians' fees.

Additional Items

- **Flowers:** Session recommends one central flower arrangement for the sanctuary. Other arrangements may be placed in the narthex or the chancel area. When placing flower arrangements on the steps or chancel, special attention must be given so that the chancel area is accessible to worship leaders.
- **Casket:** When a casket is present in the sanctuary, it may be covered with a pall as deemed appropriate by the clergy, the family and in keeping with our reformed Presbyterian heritage and the current practices as outlined in our PCUSA *Book of Order*. Cary Presbyterian Church has a pall which may be used upon request for the service. Due to the risk of stains or damage, nothing may be placed on the pall.
- **Civil and Military Ceremonies:** When requested by the family as they work with the pastor(s) to plan the service, an American flag may be used as a pall. However, civil and military ceremonies may take place only outside the sanctuary. These ceremonies may take place under the covered entry just outside the double wooden doors, in the side yard (behind the sanctuary) or at a cemetery. In the event of inclement weather, these ceremonies could take place in the narthex or Fellowship Hall.
- **Bulletin (or printed order of worship):** The church office staff will ordinarily produce the bulletin (or printed order of worship) for funerals. Special requests should be made as early as possible.
- **Committals and Interments:** Committals or interments may be held before or after a funeral upon arrangement with the minister.
- **Columbarium:** The columbarium and memorial garden, located outside the sanctuary, provide a special place for Christian burial where deceased loved ones can be remembered and celebrated. Interment in the columbarium is open to all members and former members of Cary Presbyterian Church and their families. The one-time purchase payment includes one or two urns (each niche can accommodate two urns), inscription of names and dates on the granite niche cover, and perpetual care of the columbarium and garden. Niche locations may be selected and reserved at the time of purchase. Niches may not be sold or transferred except with the express permission of Cary Presbyterian Church. A niche may be repurchased by the church, less an administration fee, for just cause. For columbarium inquiries and usage, please contact the CPC Office Manager at 919-467-8700.

Honoraria

The ordained pastors of Cary Presbyterian Church believe that funerals are a part of their pastoral call to ministry. They count it both a great responsibility and a great privilege to be with families in their moment of need, offering through their words, work, and witness the life and love of Jesus Christ.

They also acknowledge that some families wish to honor pastors with an honorarium. **As many families are uncertain about an appropriate amount and often contact the church office to ask what is customary, the following ranges are**

suggested as general guidelines for those wishing to provide an honorarium. The ranges should not be interpreted as a fee-for-service arrangement:

Officiating Pastor	\$150–200. Depending on the extent to which the officiating pastor is involved in the planning, preparation and leading of the service.
Additional Pastor(s)	\$75–100. Depending on the extent to which the additional pastor(s) is/are involved in the planning, preparation and leading of the service.

PLEASE NOTE: It is totally at the family’s discretion as to whether or not they choose to provide an honorarium to the participating pastor(s). It is also totally at the family’s discretion, should they choose to provide an honorarium, to follow the guideline suggested above or to determine other amounts they deem appropriate.

If a family chooses to provide an honorarium to the participating pastor(s), the amount chosen should be made payable to the funeral home. The home will then disburse the amount(s) accordingly. On those rare occasions when a funeral home is not involved in the proceedings, honoraria may be given directly to staff members on the day of the funeral.

Fees

The following fees apply to funerals held on-site at Cary Presbyterian Church. These fees may be waived at the discretion of the officiating pastor in consultation with the Director of Music.

Director of Music	\$150. This fee may increase if a rehearsal is required.
Soloist(s)	\$35–50.

The Director of Music’s fee should be made payable to the funeral home. The home will then disburse the amount(s) accordingly. On those rare occasions when a funeral home is not involved in the proceedings, fees may be given directly to the Director of Music (ordinarily on the day of the funeral). Soloist(s) fees should also be made payable to the funeral home for disbursement. Normally, one check is written to the funeral home to cover all fees and honoraria.

Planning a Funeral at Cary Presbyterian Church

Because it is difficult under emotional stress to plan wisely, the session [encourages] members to discuss and plan in advance the arrangements which will be necessary at the time of death, including decisions about the Christian options of burial, cremation, or donation for medical purposes. W-4.1002

The ministers welcome opportunities to work with individuals and families to plan funerals before the time of death. The ministers encourage individuals to communicate their wishes and desires with family and friends. Whenever possible, these wishes and desires should be put in writing—preferably using the CPC Funeral Wishes Form—and filed with the responsible parties.

Scheduling a Funeral at Cary Presbyterian Church

1. Please contact one of the ministers (or the church office) as soon as possible. It is appropriate, when the family prefers a particular minister, to share this preference. It will be honored whenever possible.
2. The minister will visit with the family to offer pastoral care and guidance and to begin the process of planning the funeral service.
3. The minister will work with the family and funeral home to ensure your loved one's funeral is handled with the utmost dignity and respect.

Other Information

- **Funeral Homes:**² Cary Presbyterian Church works with a variety of funeral homes. While we do not endorse one funeral home over another, we most often work with the Brown-Wynne Funeral Home in Cary. We also work with the Cremation Society of the Carolinas. The ministers are willing to be present while families are making arrangements with funeral homes.
- **Visitations:** On occasion, families request that a visitation be held at the church. Ordinarily this type of event is held in the Fellowship Hall. We have had open- and closed-casket visitations in the Fellowship Hall. If an open-casket visitation takes place in the sanctuary, the casket will be closed 20 minutes before the funeral.
- **Receptions and Meals:** The Caregivers of Cary Presbyterian Church offer several options at the time of death. These options include:
 - Refreshments during a family visitation at the church
 - A meal for the family at the church before or after the funeral
 - A meal for the family delivered to the family's home
- **Recording of the Service:** At the family's request, a DVD recording of the service held in the CPC sanctuary will be made. When making service arrangements with the officiating pastor(s), please indicate your desire for a DVD recording.

The congregation, officers, and staff offer this policy as a faithful way to proceed at the time of death. In the name of our Risen Savior, we stand with those who grieve the loss of their loved ones and who celebrate the resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. By the great grace of God, may this policy guide us in honoring and respecting our loved one passing from this world to the next.

Adopted by the Session of Cary Presbyterian Church on July 20, 2009.

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² **Please note:** It is very important that the ministers and funeral directors work as a team. If you have not contacted the church when you contact the funeral home, please ask the funeral director to call the church immediately. Please do not schedule a funeral without contacting the church and speaking with the minister.