

# GERMANTOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MEMORIAL GARDEN

## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Will GPC arrange for cremation?**

Cremation is the responsibility of the family of the deceased. There are numerous cremation service providers in Memphis. As of August 2013, the following prices were quoted:

Affordable Cremation	\$824.26
Highpoint Funeral Home	\$1,224.20
Memphis Funeral Home	\$4,790
Memorial Park	\$4,235 - \$12,000
Family Funeral Care	\$3,220
Collierville Funeral Home	\$3,990
Brantley Funeral Home	\$3,990
Serenity	\$895
Added 5/15 Tennessee Cremations	\$800

### **Is cremation consistent with Christianity?**

Please refer to "Essay on the Biblical Basis for Cremation" by Dr. Joe B. Donaho.

### **How will the process of interment typically proceed from the time of death through interment?**

At the time of death, the family will obtain the urn from GPC (which was reserved at the time of entry into the subscription agreement). The family will provide the urn to the cremation service provider of their selection. If the interment will occur contemporaneous with the death, the urn will be returned to GPC and retained in locked storage until the service of interment. The service will be planned by the pastor in consultation with the family as any memorial service. The memorial service will be held in the Chapel, Sanctuary or Memorial Garden. Following which, the urn will be placed into the niche and covered with the engraved faceplate which has been ordered by the GPC office based upon the information provided by the family. If the interment will not occur contemporaneous with the death, the urn containing the cremains may be retained in locked storage at GPC until such time as the interment service will occur.

### **Why is there only one person per niche?**

Single interment is more traditional. In a cemetery one would not expect to see two persons sharing the same grave. With single interment, there is the name of only one person on each faceplate which creates a uniform and harmonious façade for the niche wall.

### **Why can't I reserve specific niches?**

Again, the policy is to ensure uniformity and consistency. The objective is to fill the wall as it is needed in order of interment.

**Do I own my niche?**

The subscription agreement conveys the right to be interred in the columbarium. The Memorial Garden and Columbarium are components of Germantown Presbyterian Church and as such cannot be owned by individuals.

**Is the cost of the subscription tax deductible?**

Because the value of the right of interment in the niche, the urn and the faceplate inscription are equivalent to the subscription cost, no portion of the amount paid is tax deductible.

**Will there be scattering of ashes in the Memorial Garden?**

The Memorial Garden Association considered the question of scattering. After researching the practice, the Association declined to adopt scattering.

**Can I enter into subscription agreements for my parents, children or grandchildren who are not members of GPC?**

So long as you enter into the subscription agreements while you are a member of GPC, your parents, children or grandchildren who are not members of GPC are eligible to be interred at GPC.

**When can I inter my loved one whose cremains are in my custody?**

Upon confirmation of eligibility according to the policies and entry into a subscription agreement, you may inter your loved one at any time upon completion of the garden.

**Will you take custody of the cremains until the time of interment?**

Upon confirmation of eligibility according to the policies and entry into a subscription agreement, GPC will retain the cremains in locked storage.

**The urn containing the cremains of my loved one is too large for the niche. What solution do you have?**

The subscription agreement includes an urn sized appropriately for our niches. Cremains are generally held in a bag within the urn and can easily be transferred to the provided urn.

**Who will administer the contract provisions and retain a record of my subscription?**

The Church Administrator will retain the original record of your subscription agreement. You will be given a copy to retain with your records. The Church Administrator is authorized by the Association of comply with the Germantown Presbyterian Church Memorial Garden Policies. The Church Administrator with refer any question regarding the interpretation or application of the Policies to the Association.