

## *Funeral Service Policy*

- A. The Grove Presbyterian Church is always open for a Christian service for the burial of the dead. It is part of the ministry of this church to bring comfort and hope in time of sorrow and to bear witness to the Resurrection of Jesus Christ our Lord and of all who have put their trust in Him for their salvation.

In the case of funerals for non-member families, it is suggested that you consider the services provided to you by this church and its ministry and contribute accordingly to its total work and mission.

- B. If the services of an organist or soloist are desired, it is expected that payment by the family will be made directly to them for this service. In addition to the time spent in preparation, providing music for the funeral service is often emotionally one of the most difficult services that they are called upon to perform. For guidance in this matter, the Session requests a minimum of \$75.00 for the organist and \$50.00 for the soloist.
- C. If refreshments in the church building are desired following the service, the Grove Presbyterian Women should be contacted as soon as possible for arrangements. (see below)
- D. In case of funerals of non-members or of non-resident members, the Pastor should be contacted before any definite arrangements for the service are made, so that maximum cooperation can be maintained in the planning of the service.
- E. As a funeral service is a worship service to the glory of God, it is not permissible for photographs to be taken inside the Sanctuary and/or on the Church premises.

## Guidelines for Funeral Refreshments

### **Purpose of refreshments following worship service:**

- ◆ Give chance to bond, mingle, share remembrances, support one another.
- ◆ Give the guests the chance to leave or stay.
- ◆ People do not attend to eat, they are come to the Fellowship Hall to talk and greet one another.
- ◆ Express the Church's affection and faith to family and as an evangelistic outreach to visitors.
- ◆ A ministry of hospitality and helpfulness
- ◆ Offer options to cover the various types of deaths: old and fulfilled, tragic and young, suicide (the mood of the congregation requires what kind of reception atmosphere?)

### **Food and beverages provided:**

- ◆ Keep it simple.
- ◆ Keep it consistent with our Reformed understanding of death.
- ◆ More of an "hors d'oeuvres and punch" concept.
- ◆ Are there items special to the family of the deceased?
- ◆ What will happen if the family wants more than the Church can or will provide?

### **Arrangement of tables and chairs:**

- ◆ Adequate for comfort, especially for the older and the little ones.
- ◆ Arrange to encourage mingling and conversation.
- ◆ Make room for receiving line.
- ◆ Will there be decorations?

### **Procedural Questions:**

1. Who communicates to the family what the Church can provide?
  2. Who is in charge of making the refreshment time happen?
  3. Who will attend the event and how many?
  4. Who will prepare Fellowship Hall?
  5. How will outside the church offers for help be handled?
  6. How can the Church avoid selective volunteering, expressions of partiality?
  7. Who will prepare food?
  8. Who will set out food?
  9. Who will pay for the goods?
- Who will clean up afterwards?