



End-of-Life Planning



Planning for end-of-life is a gift you may give your loved ones and yourself. Preceding and in the midst of grief, mourners are relieved of a significant burden when someone has recorded easily-accessible advance directives, including healthcare power of attorney, plans for disposition of physical remains, and requests for memorial service or funeral.

Your clergy encourage members of all ages to develop these plans.

Resources for Planning

As you begin or continue end-of-life planning, we have user-friendly resources to help guide you. Included are questions to consider for Advance Directives, including Healthcare Power of Attorney, and a detailed form that is legally accepted in Illinois (and many other states). Advance Directives serve as your legal statement of your treatment wishes should you be unable to speak for yourself. Other detailed questions address such things as disposition of physical remains, requests for memorial service or funeral, and contact information for loved ones.

Confidential File of Documents

In addition to maintaining your documents in your own safe places, the church maintains a locked file drawer in which you may keep your end-of-life documents. You may update your file at any time.

Memorial Services and Funerals

Your clergy are ready to help you plan a service to celebrate your life. We can offer ideas for scripture and hymns and other elements of the service. Our Director of Music and Organist has prepared options for prelude and postlude music. Preparations you make in advance provide significant comfort to your loved ones who are responsible for a multitude of details.

Memorial Garden

Our Memorial Garden is available for interring ashes of deceased members. While we do not inter urns, we offer the use of the church's marble urn for the interment ritual. There is no cost associated with the Memorial Garden.

Archival Memorial Books

Our Archives Committee maintains Memorial Books containing photos and permanent record of persons whose ashes are interred in the Memorial Garden. These books are displayed in a glass case near Tittle Chapel. The committee turns the pages periodically so that the congregation may remember all the saints in the garden.

Cloister Plaques

In the cloisters adjacent to the Memorial Garden are metal plaques that display an engraved plate with name and birth and death dates for those whose ashes are interred in the Garden.

Honoraria

The Memorial Garden is available for interring ashes at no cost. We do ask an honorarium for the organist and musicians. The First Church Organist manages the organ bench and thus has right of first refusal to provide organ music for memorial services and funerals. We also ask an honorarium for the sound system operator. Please contact the church office for details.

Meeting with a Pastor

Your clergy team urge you to contact us when you are ready to discuss your plans. We want to answer your questions and offer additional resources.

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