

**GUIDELINES AND REGULATIONS
FOR THE
MEMORIAL GARDEN
OF
Bethel United Methodist Church
Columbia, SC**

The Memorial Garden of Bethel UMC is intended to provide a dignified and tranquil location for the Christian burial of the cremated remains of persons qualifying as defined in these Guidelines and Regulations. In an atmosphere of beauty and holiness, the Memorial Garden exists as a proclamation of our faith in the resurrection of the dead. Interment in the Memorial Garden will be in the context of Christian worship.

The management of the Memorial Garden shall be under the direction of the Board of Trustees of Bethel UMC. The management may be delegated to a Memorial Garden Committee selected by, and reporting to, the Trustees. The Committee shall exercise such functions and responsibilities as assigned to it by the Trustees.

Interment plots are available for reservation by the following persons:

- Regular members of Bethel (professed or baptized.)
- Spouses of members of Bethel who are not themselves members.
- Children (and their spouses) of members of Bethel who are not themselves members. However, this provision does not extend to any other family of Bethel members.
- Past and present Ministers of Bethel.

The use of an interment space does not constitute the purchase or ownership of land or property. All land within the Memorial Garden shall remain the property of Bethel UMC, and shall continue under the direction of the Board of Trustees and managed as a Memorial Garden.

The Church Office, under the direction of the Board of Trustees will maintain a plat of the Memorial Garden and a permanent record of reservations and interments. A copy of each document shall be kept in a fireproof location. Assignment and allocation of burial spaces shall be under the direction of the Board of Trustees or its Memorial Garden Committee. Interment plots shall be assigned in an orderly and systematic basis.

The size of each Interment plot shall approximate, but not exceed, two feet by two feet. The ashes of only one person shall be buried in a plot. Each plot will be covered with an inscribed granite monument. The inscription shall be limited to the name of the deceased and the dates of birth and death. The size and design of the monument shall be established by the Board of Trustees. No modifications or alterations shall be allowed.

The inclusive cost of the perpetual use of an interment plot will be seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750), payable at the time of reservation. This amount may be adjusted by the Trustees from time to time as necessary to ensure the financial independence and viability of the Memorial Garden. The perpetual use cost includes the inscribed granite monument, an urn for the cremated remains, a vault into which the urn will be placed in the ground, and the opening and closing of the burial plot. All other expenses, including the cost of cremation, and any costs incurred by funeral homes are the responsibility of the family of the deceased. Use of an interment plot may be granted at no charge by the Trustees in cases of extreme need.

The urn and vault to be provided will be those selected by the Trustees as its standard. Should the family of the deceased wish to use another urn, the family will be responsible for any additional cost involved. Also, the size of the substituted urn must be such that it will fit in the vault provided by the Trustees..

All monies received from the reservation of interment plots shall be maintained in a separate Memorial Garden fund to be used solely for the maintenance, upkeep, improvement and decoration of the Memorial Garden, and for burial and other perpetual use costs. The funds will be invested at the discretion of the Trustees with investment proceeds accruing to the Memorial Garden Fund and as a line in the Treasurer's Report.

The Memorial Garden shall at all times be properly maintained by the Church. Nothing will be planted or placed there without the approval of the Trustees. Contributions for the purpose of maintaining or improving the Memorial Garden are welcome.

No individual memorial displays are to be allowed within the Memorial Garden, including real or artificial flowers, flags or similar items. The Trustees, at its discretion, may place seasonal floral arrangements in the center of, or other appropriate place within the Memorial Garden from time to time in memory of those buried there.

The Trustees may amend or expand these regulations and guidelines at any time. Such amendments or additions shall be retroactive to all interment plots already reserved or in use.

The Trustees assume no responsibility for the ashes, urns or monuments placed in the Memorial Garden. Damage to burial spaces or their contents is not the responsibility of Bethel UMC, or its Trustees. Further, Bethel UMC retains the right to relocate cremated remains from the Memorial Garden to another location should circumstances make such relocation necessary and, in such instances, each family will be properly notified.

The above "Regulations and Guidelines for the Administration of the Memorial Garden of Bethel United Methodist Church" have been adopted by its Board of Trustees this the 29th day of September, 2011.