

IX. GUIDELINES FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

(Approved April 2007, amended 2025)

St. Paul's United Church offers you our sympathy and our prayers at this time of loss. We consider it part of our ministry to assist you as you plan the service for your loved one.

Our minister will meet with you to plan the service so that it might be fitting remembrance and tribute to the person you are honouring. You will be assisted in choosing scripture, hymns and other components of the service. Your wishes and those of the deceased will be followed the best of our ability, in keeping with the traditions of the church.

Wherever possible, family members are encouraged to participate in the service through the singing and the prayers.

Music:

Music may be selected in consultation with the Minister.

Common Questions:

Can we choose our own minister?

Normally, our resident minister will conduct the service. If you wish to have another person perform the funeral service this must be approved by resident minister and/or council.

Can others be involved?

We encourage the participation of others in reading scripture, presenting the eulogy, leading prayers or offering music.

What about a luncheon or reception?

Upon request, a luncheon can be provided by the Helping Hands Group of St. Paul's.

What about costs?

Many families ask for guidance in making contributions to cover the cost of a funeral in the church. We have developed some guidelines so that you may contribute to the on-going expenses related to the life of our congregation and the upkeep of our building.

What about Memorial Gifts?

St. Paul's United Church has a Memorial Fund which is used for particular needs of the congregation as they arise. If you wish to designate memorial gifts in memory of your loved one, gifts may be made to St. Paul's United Church, with "Memorial Fund" written on the memo line. Tax receipts will be issued.

- **Donation to the church** **\$150.00**
This helps with light, heat and general maintenance.
- **Pianist** **\$ 75.00**
This is an honorarium since this person is not on regular salary.
- **Funeral Caretaker** **\$100.00**
This includes unlocking & locking doors, setting up chairs, sound system, extra cleaning, being available to family and funeral directors, etc. This is an honorarium as this work is done by a volunteer.
- **Banquet Hall- Lunch** **\$25.00**

- **Minister's Honorarium**

Recognizing that a funeral generally falls on top of other planned work and usually includes overtime hours for the minister, you may wish to offer a gift of appreciation. This is neither expected nor required but would be a voluntary gift on your part. We would suggest \$200.00

We hope these guidelines will assist you in your planning.

If any of these amounts present a hardship, please let the Minister know.

We are glad to be able to serve you at this time of need.

May God comfort you in your sorrow and may the support of friends and community be a blessing to you.