

Center United Methodist Church Columbarium

Rules And Regulations

Introduction:

The name columbarium is derived from the Latin Columba or “Dovecote,” the dove being the symbol of God’s spirit and peace. Today, many are searching for an alternative to ground burial that offers beauty and simplicity. A Columbarium houses burial chambers in which cremated remains are placed. Each niche identifies the person’s name just as a monument does for a burial site. A Columbarium offers an environmentally sensitive solution to the traditional ground burial, therefore, extending the life of an existing cemetery. This in no way changes funeral services or memorial services for the deceased. This is just an alternative to the ground burial. Placing the ashes of the deceased in a niche in the Columbarium is a respectful, simple way to show honor to a deceased loved one.

Preface:

In late 2013 and early 2014, the Cemetery Committee approved the establishment of a Columbarium. The Columbarium became a reality in late 2014. Its purpose is to provide a resting place for cremated ashes of human remains. Center U.M.C. Cemetery Committee hopes that this valued addition to our Church will inspire reverence for this life and the life to come, in addition, offering our members an alternate means to the traditional burial.

Columbarium Rules And Regulations

Columbarium:

The Columbarium, at this time, consists of forty-eight (48) niches, uniform in size for the interment of the cremated ashes of human remains. Each niche will have a granite nameplate on which the name, date of birth, and date of death will be inscribed. Each niche is limited to the cremated remains of two (2) persons.

Interment and Eligibility:

The Columbarium in the Memorial Garden is available for the interment of full members of Center United Methodist Church. In addition, current and former ministers of Center United Methodist Church and their spouses are also eligible. Interment of non-members is not allowed.

Books and Records:

All records of reserved niches will be kept by the Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee. All expenses for the up-keep of Columbarium Memorial Garden shall be kept by the treasurer of the Cemetery Committee. All improvements to and around the Memorial Garden shall be voted on by the Cemetery Committee.

Urns:

The urn containing the cremated remains of the Church member shall be provided by and paid for by the deceased's legal representative or family member. Each urn shall not exceed the interior dimensions of the niche, which are 12 inches wide, 12 inches deep, and 12 inches tall. Center United Methodist Church shall have no responsibility for the acquisition of any urn for the safekeeping of cremated remains.

Engraving of the Niche Covers:

All niche covers will be engraved in a uniformed style, content and size. The expense shall be paid by the family or legal representative and must be completed within one (1) year. Each niche cover may be inscribed only with the deceased name, date of birth and date of death. Niches receiving the cremated remains of two (2) persons may be inscribed with both persons' information. "NO OTHER INFORMATION WILL BE PERMITTED ON THE NICHE COVER."

Flowers, Plants, and Decoration:

The Memorial Garden will be beautifully landscaped with shrubs, flowers and crape myrtle trees. There shall be no flowers or other decorations placed near or affixed to the niches. Center United Methodist Church Cemetery Committee has the right to remove anything placed on or near the Columbarium niches.

Cost of Cremation:

The cost of cremation and urns shall be paid by the family or legal representative of the deceased. Center United Methodist Church only provides a final resting place for the cremated remains.

Policy Changes:

The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to amend, modify, or change the rules and regulations pertaining to the Columbarium Memorial Garden.

Access:

The opening of any niche is prohibited by anyone other than the Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee or his /her appointee. A niche may only be opened by written request of the member's family or legal representative. Upon showing good cause, authorization can only be approved by the Cemetery Committee provided that the committee reserves the right to seek advice of legal counsel on any issue related to this or any other provision of these rules before granting any request. Any expenses associated with such opening must be paid for prior to opening the niche. All such openings shall be documented by the Chairperson of the Cemetery Committee.

Release:

All family and legal representatives of cremated remains housed in Columbarium niches release Center United Methodist Church from any and all liabilities arising as a result of unauthorized removal of any cremated remains or vandalism of niche or their contents.

Binding Effect:

These rules and regulations shall be binding upon all persons acquiring the right to place cremated remains within the Columbarium, and upon all family and legal representatives of the deceased. The filing of an application for a niche in the Columbarium shall constitute an agreement on the part of the applicant to be bound and comply with these rules and regulations (as the same may from time to time be modified or changed).

These rules and regulations adopted on ____/____/____ by the Administrative Board of Center United Church of Welcome, North Carolina.

In case of any unusual circumstance not adequately covered by above rules and regulations, the Cemetery Committee has the full authority to consider the merits of the case and use it's on judgment.

Administrative Board Chairperson _____

Cemetery Committee Chairperson _____

Cemetery Committee Treasure _____

Cemetery Committee Member _____