

## **Memorial garden placing of ashes policy**

### **Our Religious Tradition**

From earliest times, people have desired their earthly resting place be near the gathering place of their families so as to be held in lasting and loving remembrance. As such they preferred a location that had significant meaning in their lives. In early Christian times, the preferred burial location was within the Church. Because space within the Church was limited, the churchyard cemetery was developed. Only in recent times, as the issues of cost and space for developing and maintaining the churchyard cemetery became significant, burial grounds were developed often far removed from centers of life and prayer.

In Christian times the dual tradition of burial and cremation was practiced. More recently, consideration of the spiritual and practical aspects of cremation has led to a revival of interest in interment in a churchyard. Developing the University Lutheran Church (ULC) Memorial Garden allows ULC members to consider placing ashes in a Memorial Garden.

### **Concept and Purpose**

The Memorial Garden is to be especially for those who love this Church. It shall be hallowed ground, sacred to the memory of those whom we have loved. It is to be maintained in quiet, dignified beauty, a place of peace and serenity. The Memorial Garden provides a place on Church property for placing ashes from cremation for Church family members and friends of the Church as well as a retreat for meditation and prayer of all who wish to use it.

### **Terms of Operation**

- The Memorial Garden's use and maintenance are at all times under the exclusive control of University Lutheran Church. Funds for upkeep shall be collected from each placement of ashes and shall be held and dispersed for that purpose only. A Placing of Ashes fee shall be established by the Church and may be revised at their discretion.
- Using the Memorial Garden for placing of ashes is primarily for Church members and their immediate families. Immediate families mean father, mother, husband, wife, domestic partner and children of a member. Request for placing any other person's ashes must be made to the Church in writing and the decision of the Church will be final. Only human remains will be considered.
- Those wishing to place ashes in the Memorial Garden must file a signed application with the Church office, indicating acceptance of the rules and regulations
- Once approved, and a date established, placing ashes in the Memorial Garden can either be a private function, or officiated by a ULC pastor, or officiated by other clergy with lead pastor prior approval, or performed by a ULC designated person.
- Only scattering of ashes in the Memorial Garden will be allowed. Urns and other containers are precluded.
- The Church reserves the right to designate which general area within the Memorial Garden the ashes are to be placed.
- Since precise site identification will remain anonymous, location markers and other site decorations are not allowed in the Memorial Garden.
- ULC will design and maintain an identification plaque in an appropriate location within the Garden.
- Persons desiring their plaques to be together have the option of reserving space by paying the Placement of Ashes fee together.
- The Church will maintain a permanent registry of ashes placed in the Memorial Garden.
- Ashes placed in the Memorial Garden will be considered final and requests to remove or relocate ashes will not be honored.
- The Memorial Garden's use and maintenance are at all times under the exclusive control of ULC, which shall have the right to relocate the Memorial Garden in whole or in part and to use the location for any purpose. Placing ashes does not establish any property right to any part of the Memorial Garden.

**Application for placement of ashes in the Memorial Garden**

I (\_\_\_\_\_) wish to place ashes in the Memorial Garden of University Lutheran Church (ULC) for myself or \_\_\_\_\_ who was my \_\_\_\_\_ (relation to applicant).

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| • I am a member of ULC.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Person whose ashes are being placed was a member of ULC.     | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • I agree with the Terms of Operation and to be bound by them. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • A service in the Church is requested.                        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

I acknowledge and agree to release and hold University Lutheran Church harmless from any liability for placing of ashes.

I agree to indemnify University Lutheran Church for any loss or claim arising out of this transaction.

Attached is the Placement of Ashes Fee of Five Hundred (\$500.00) for maintaining the Memorial Garden and for purchasing, placing, and maintaining a plaque within the Garden.

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Applicant Signature)

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Witness Signature)



\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Approved by (church representative)

Comments/notes: \_\_\_\_\_

----- **To be completed by ULC Staff** -----

Birth Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Death Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Church Service Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Placement of Ashes Date: \_\_\_\_\_