

Memory Garden Agreement Details

We believe:

that we are created by a loving God as eternal beings, and for our lives as earth creatures we have a physical body to respect, nourish, and enjoy.

that death is the natural end of life in this body, but God has planned that life has an eternal dimension, and we no longer are dependent on the physical limitations of our earthly body.

that after death, what remains on earth is the wealth of memories held and treasured by friends and loved ones, while some respectful disposition is made for the physical body.

that cremation is one acceptable way to care for the physical body.

that a Memory Garden could be dedicated to and reserved for use as a lasting memorial to provide for the interment of cremated human remains for persons of Community Mennonite Church, immediate family and others.

A Memory Garden Purpose

The purpose of a memory garden, on the property of CMC, is to dedicate an outdoor area for the interment of human cremains of church members, their immediate family and others. Attractive landscaping makes the garden a suitable location to place the cremated ashes of the human body. It is a place to meditate, remember and celebrate the lives of the persons whose ashes have been placed there.

Cremation is an ancient tradition that has been practiced throughout the world in many cultures. Today most Christian denominations consider cremation to be an acceptable, respectful, and dignified way of treating the human body after death. The memory garden on CMC property helps to bring the reality of death closer to the life of the church and honors those who have gone before us.

Definitions

Memory Garden refers to the outdoor area on the property of Community Mennonite Church designed for the interment of human remains.

Member or associate member of Community Mennonite Church of Harrisonburg (CMC) refers to the persons so designated by the Bylaws of CMC.

Immediate family not attending CMC, includes the spouse, children, parents, brothers and sisters of members of CMC.

Non-members of Community Mennonite Church, limited to:

- Active attendees, previous members & Inactive members.
- Non-members who are associated with and/or are served as an extension of Community Mennonite Church's ministry to the community (ie. Patchwork Pantry, Prison Ministry, Our Community Place, New Bridges, Bridge of Hope, etc.).

Interment Agreement and Fees

- a. The fee of \$500.00 per plot (or scattering) and \$900.00 per plot where two cremains are buried (or scattered). The payment is without reservation and may be used by CMC for any lawful purpose.
- b. No property right of any kind is acquired by or through the payment for interment in the Memory Garden.
- c. The fee will provide the Participant interment in the Memory Garden, designation on the memorial plaque and recording of the name and appropriate data in a remembrance book.
- d. CMC shall enter into Interment Agreements only with Members of CMC and others deemed eligible for interment in the Memory Garden by the Memory Garden Trustees and only upon the receipt of the appropriate fee.
- e. Each Interment Agreement shall designate the name(s) of the person(s) whose cremated remains are to be interred in the Garden (Participants).
- f. During the lifetime of any Participant, the Agreement may be modified by agreement of the Participant and CMC. However, a right to interment may not be assigned, transferred or inherited except from a Participant who is a CMC member to his/her spouse.
- g. A Participant may at any point request from the Memory Garden Trustees the option of forfeiting his/her/their right to interment in the CMC Memory Garden if the reasons include one or more of the following: relocation to another community, state or country, transfer of membership to another congregation, or transfer to another church denomination.

Terms and Conditions

- a. Legal title, use and maintenance of the Memory Garden shall be in the exclusive control of CMC. No individual shall acquire any right whatsoever with respect to the use or appearance of the Garden or related memorial plaques or books.
- b. The Participant, on behalf of himself or herself, his/her family, heirs and assigns waives all rights to access, remove or retrieve ashes of the interred in the Memory Garden. Only biodegradable containers approved by CMC can be used in the Memory Garden. Only cremated human remains may be buried or scattered in the Memory Garden. CMC and those acting on its behalf shall not be liable for damage or loss to ashes or for other damages or losses of any kind.
- c. The names of all persons whose ashes are interred in the Memory Garden will be entered into a memorial book of remembrance maintained by CMC. A plaque bearing the name, birth and death date of each person whose ashes are interred in the Memory Garden will be maintained by CMC.
- d. Interment services are the responsibility of the ministerial staff of CMC. Clergy of other churches may officiate or assist with approval by the Memory Garden Trustees.
- e. CMC respects the sanctity of the site, but reserves the right to remodel, alter or reconfigure the plan or structures of the Memory Garden in its sole discretion. CMC shall at all times retain full ownership, custody and control of the Memory Garden.
- f. Memorial wreaths, cut flowers, floral displays, flags or other ornamentation may not be placed in the Memory Garden without prior written approval of the Memory Garden Trustees.
- g. Memory Garden Trustees shall control what items are placed in the Memory Garden and the length of time those items can stay in the garden.
- h. The maintenance of the Memory Garden shall be the responsibility of CMC Property Committee.
- i. CMC shall designate budgeted funds for the maintenance of the Memory Garden. Unrestricted donations may be made to the CMC Memory Garden Fund.
- j. There will be no monuments or headstones within the Memory Gardens confines. The memorialization of death shall be indicated by a person's name and QR code on a display podium in the Memory Garden. The QR code can be retrieved by any Smart Phone that will give exact location of buried cremains and any obituary information the Participant or living family request.

Procedures upon the death of a participant

- a. The family of the deceased is responsible for making all arrangements with CMC for the use of the Memory Garden. The Memory Garden Trustees or a CMC Pastor shall be the contact person for the arrangement of interment and service.
- b. Trustees will contact facilities and grounds committee to prepare the site. For burial, 24 hour notice is needed.
- c. Follow Funeral/Memorial Service Policy and Planning Procedures.
- d. If purchase is needed following a death, contact a pastor or a memory garden trustee.

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