

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
115 N. 25th Avenue
Hattiesburg, Mississippi 39401

COLUMBARIUM POLICY

Adopted by the Session March 16, 2008, revised and readopted on May 15, 2016

The Columbarium continues a venerable Christian tradition by providing a peaceful place on Church property to keep or spread the ashes of loved ones. Westminster Presbyterian Church (the "Church") adopts this Policy to govern the Columbarium:

1. Eligible Persons. The ashes of an Eligible Person may be placed in a container (urn) in a Niche or spread in the memorial garden. Eligible Person means:
 - a. A member of the Church (when they purchase a Right of Interment or on the date of death).
 - b. The parents, spouse, or child of an Eligible Person.
 - c. An ordained minister who served the Church as pastor (and family members).
 - d. A person recommended by the Pastor and approved by the Session who is meaningfully connected to the Church or demonstrates other compelling special circumstances.

2. Options. The Columbarium may be used by: a) placing an urn in a Niche; b) scattering ashes in the garden and placing the person's name on the memorial marker; or c) simply placing the person's name on the memorial marker (no urn or ashes). These options are more fully described below.
 - a. Right of Interment in a Niche. An Eligible Person (or their representative) may purchase a Right of Interment by paying the Church the Purchase Price and the Maintenance Fee. A Niche is eleven (11) inches tall, eleven (11) inches wide, and fourteen (14) inches deep. If you purchase an urn, it must fit within these dimensions. If you intend to put two urns in one Niche, the outside dimensions of each urn cannot exceed 10 x 10 x 7 inches. A Niche may be paid for in whole or by partial payments over a period of up to 30 months. All costs must be paid in full before a Niche can be used.
 - b. Right to Scatter Ashes in Memorial Garden. Upon payment of the one-time Maintenance Fee, the ashes of an Eligible Person may be scattered in the memorial garden and the name of the person may be placed on the memorial marker.
 - c. Eligible Person Interred Elsewhere. Upon payment of the one-time Maintenance Fee, any Eligible Person whose body or cremains are interred or scattered elsewhere may have his or her name placed on the memorial marker.

3. Names. The granite face plate for the urn will be engraved with the decedent's name and date of birth and death by a firm selected by the Church at a cost of \$70. In the event you choose to scatter ashes without an urn, the Church will provide a standardized (uniform) name plate stating the name and dates of birth and death on a memorial marker at the Church's cost.

4. Purchase Price and Maintenance Fee. A \$250 Maintenance Fee is due before each interment (\$500 total for two urns), the spreading of ashes and/or placing a name on the memorial marker. The Purchase Price of a Right of Interment shall be \$1,500 (this includes the right to place a second urn in a Niche). These charges may be changed from time to time but such changes will not affect completed purchases. All other expenses such as cremation cost, mortuary services, urns, and any fees imposed by any governmental authority shall be paid by the estate or the representative of the Eligible Person.
5. Interment by Ordained Minister or Elder. Ashes shall be interred in a Niche or scattered in the memorial garden only by an ordained minister or elder serving the Church or an ordained minister or lay person invited to do so by the Pastor or the Session.
6. Columbarium Committee. The Columbarium shall be maintained and managed by the Board of Deacons and a Committee appointed by the Session. Committee members shall be eligible for reappointment. The Committee shall serve at the pleasure of and report directly to the Session.
7. Miscellaneous Rules
 - a. Perpetual Care. Funds paid to or collected by the Church regarding the Columbarium shall be held in a special account; provided, when the total funds on hand exceed \$5,000, excess funds may be used by the Church for other purposes. Funds retained in the Columbarium account shall be used solely for the construction, upkeep, repair, enlargement, and maintenance of the Columbarium and for the repurchase of Rights of Interment.
 - b. Reopening of Niches. A Niche may be reopened and the contents removed only for good cause as determined by the Committee. Any associated expense shall be paid by the person requesting removal. All such re-openings and removals shall be fully documented and the Church shall be released and held harmless from any liability.
 - c. Relocation of Columbarium. In the event the Church relocates, it shall provide a comparable Columbarium in the new location and shall either return the urn(s) to the family or place the urn in the new Columbarium at no further expense. In the event the Church ceases to exist, the family shall have the right to request the return of the urn within a reasonable time.
 - d. Columbarium Rights. No ownership in the Columbarium, the Niche, the memorial garden, or any other interest in real estate is being purchased, conveyed, or implied. Legal title to all the foregoing shall remain at all times with the Church. The purchase of a Right of Interment conveys only the right to use the Niche for the interment of an urn containing the ashes of an Eligible Person. The Columbarium is not a cemetery and no cemetery rights or other special privileges or rights are granted to the families of the persons whose ashes are interred or scattered therein. No liability of any kind or character is assumed by the Church for the Columbarium except as set forth in this Policy, as amended from time to time.
 - e. Repurchase of Rights. The purchaser of a Right of Interment may offer to transfer such right back to the Church at any time prior to interment. The Church may accept this request and refund the Purchase Price. The Right of Interment may not be sold, transferred, or conveyed, in whole or in part, except to the Church.
 - f. Amendments. Amendments or additions to this Policy shall be made by the Session on its own motion or upon recommendation from the Committee.