

On Methodism

Cemetery & Parsonage Committees — Explained

The Parsonage Committee is responsible for making sure that the church owned parsonage is being maintained well and is suitable for the pastor or his family to live in, which requires a annual walk through of the property. At the same time, the committee must be respectful of the pastor and his family members' rights to privacy. (See The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church, 2008, p. 184, ¶258.2g(16).

The Cemetery Committee is made up of the Board of Trustees plus two more members. They help set the rules for the use of the cemetery by members and their families, and see that the grounds are properly maintained. On page seven of this newsletter, we have printed the rules governing the use of burial plots in Ebenezer UMC's cemetery, and the cost of said plots if applicable. The current person to contact if you have questions or need to arrange for a plot is Gerald Frye. ❖❖❖

Rules Governing Ebenezer United Methodist Church's Cemetery

1. Ebenezer UMC's cemetery is closed to the public, effective February 12, 1962.
2. Free burial permits will be granted only to those meeting the following conditions: Active members of Ebenezer UMC and immediate family. Immediate family is hereby interpreted to mean:
 - A. The husband or wife of a member.
 - B. Unmarried children supported by a parent or parents who are active members, i.e. high school, college attendees.
 - C. Active members mean persons who are supporting Ebenezer UMC with their presence and tithes, in at least 50% of the programs of the church.
 - D. Sustaining members who support Ebenezer UMC with their tithes or those persons who are active or sustaining members prior to their disabilities.
3. A fee of \$1,200 per burial plot (a plot will be five feet wide and ten feet long) will be charged all persons, except active members of Ebenezer UMC; however, no burial plot may be purchased by any person who is not a member of said church unless that person

is a member of the immediate family as herein interpreted to mean: The husband or wife of a person buried in said cemetery.

4. In the event a request for a burial space is received by the Cemetery Committee for any person not herein covered in either item 2 or 3 above; yet, in the opinion of the Cemetery Committee said person was, at time of death, actively associated with Ebenezer UMC, it shall be within the discretion of the Cemetery Committee to grant space for the fee of \$1,200. In the event space is granted on this basis, then the rules governing definitions of immediate family as described above will not apply to this person.
5. Location of burial plots will be approved by the Cemetery Committee. There will be a permanent marker, flat or upright, placed on the grave within 90 days after burial.
6. Burial space will be granted on request to any Methodist minister, and members of his immediate family, who is presently or has ever served Ebenezer UMC as interpreted in item 2.
7. If at any time, a problem or question arises concerning said cemetery, the problem or question will be referred to the Cemetery Committee. Said Committee shall be the trustees of church property. It will be the duty of this committee to interpret these rules and the decisions of his committee will be final. Trustees will vote one person to be the contact person to make burial sites available and to maintain the cemetery according to the guidelines. Current cemetery contact person is Gerald Frye.



Revised: February 1, 2009

¹³Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. —1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV)