

***The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord.***

Job 1:21b

***Philosophy and Policy of Funerals at
Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church***

In our efforts to assist you in properly planning the eulogistic services for your loved one, our church staff has prepared this information to explain how we minister during funerals at Cade Chapel.

I. The Christian Funeral

The Christian funeral is a worship service in which God's people witness to their faith in the hope of the Gospel, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting and in which also a comforting assurance of God's love and salvation in Christ is ministered, especially to the Christian bereaved.

II. Towards an Understanding of the Christian Funeral

A funeral service at Cade Chapel Missionary Baptist Church is worship of the true and living God. The funeral is God's way of bringing comfort to the hearts of those who mourn as scripture is read and preached, prayer is offered, praises are sung, grief is expressed, remembrance is cherished. We also believe that the funeral serves to begin the healing of human hearts and emotions, as we submit to the will of God and hear the Word of God. The funeral is an occasion in which we, by the grace of God, bless the name of the One who gives and takes away.

The presence of family and friends around at this time serves to support and strengthen those who sorrow. The funeral gives thanks for life and lifts meaningful memories of lost loved ones helping us learn vital lessons from it.

Thus, in the funeral service, we gather primarily to worship God and confess our faith in a living Savior. Though we mourn our loss and remember our loved one, our focus is fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

III. Planning the Service

1. *While some choose the chapel at a funeral home for the memorial service, others prefer the church building where faith is nourished, marriage vows are made, children are baptized, communion is received, and prayers are offered by the people of God. We will make every effort to accommodate your choice.*

2. *The practice of "viewing the remains" or "final viewing" after the eulogy is **strongly** discouraged. The ministry of the Word is meant to help heal and comfort us as we release our loved one. A "final viewing" disrupts that healing process and brings back what we are being*

encouraged to release. Viewings can be planned at the funeral home where family and friends can gather together to encourage each other. Please take advantage of that time so that once the funeral service begins and the casket is closed, you are prepared for the ministry of healing through the Word.

3. Because fraternal or civil rites of any kind are not a part of the worship service, these organizations should pay tribute to the deceased at another hour and place. Such rites can be performed at the funeral home, during family hour. The Christian funeral is reserved specifically for the church.

4. Because families sometimes have members of different faiths (Muslim, Buddhist, Jehovah's Witness, etc.) we are sensitive to their presence. However, we are unapologetically Christian and conducting a Christian service in the church of Jesus Christ. If you have family members who are ministers of a different faith who you want included in the service, we will ask them to sit with the family and speak from the secondary lection.

5. Customarily, many people choose to have the memorial service before the burial; others for logistical reasons may have the burial before the service. Either approach is appropriate and the church makes no recommendation in this regard. Over the years Christians have generally shunned the practice of cremation, however, such decisions are strictly left to the family to decide and will be respected and honored by the church.

6. If the burial is more than 20 miles from the church, the pastor may choose to perform the committal at the church. Every effort will be made to conduct the committals at the graveside, but out-of-town travel for such is not our practice.

7. The use of "program guides" has become popular in recent years in many churches. However, to remain consistent in theology and decorum, services will be officiated by pastoral staff or a designee of the pastoral staff.

8. In all cases, the Senior Pastor has sole responsibility and discretion in carrying out church funeral services at Cade Chapel. Consequently, if you desire to have a family minister deliver the eulogy, you must bring this request directly to the Pastor before planning such. The Senior Pastor will make the final determination. We will make every effort to include members of your family in the service where appropriate.

9. Funeral planning must be done with a member of the funeral committee, who will help plan the order of service and answer any questions you have about policies and practices of the church. Only those special requests (regarding things pertaining to the service itself, whether music or guest minister) which meet the approval of the officiating minister are acceptable.

IV. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How soon after death must the funeral occur?

Christian tradition urges that burial occur as soon as possible after death, generally within three to five days. However, it is customary to avoid burial on the Lord's Day or on a religious holiday. Any day Monday through Saturday is deemed appropriate.

2. Is there a cost for the use of the church?

Only in cases where the member has become inactive or is a non-member will there be a cost to use the church for funeral purposes. In this instance a sexton fee is also accessed. Please consult the business manager or the Chairman of the Deacon Ministry for details.

3. What is the best place for a funeral?

No one can answer that question for you. This suggestion is offered only to assist you in making a proper determination. Customarily, Christians prefer the church. The church is the sacred center for worship and the most familiar setting in which to contemplate God and sacred events such as communion and baptism.

Through the ages the church has been the gathering place of the saints for the preached word, where the Songs of Zion and the prayers of believers are lifted to God. These sacred memories comfort those who mourn. The church is open for you at any time that you wish to plan your service Monday through Saturday. It is your church and a Christian burial will not be denied anyone.

4. Do you eulogize unbelievers?

*As a service to members of the church, if your family member is an unbeliever, we will allow the funeral to be held here without charge. However, this courtesy is extended **only** to immediate family members (i.e. spouse or child). All other family members who are either unbelievers or non-members should have their services scheduled at the funeral home chapel.*

5. Does the pastor or his designee perform Graveside Services?

Yes. Graveside services are often for simplicity and convenience and are sometimes the expressed wish of the deceased. You should however, consider the forecast for wind, rain, cold or harsh summer temperatures. The time must be brief as to prevent prolonged standing. The ministry of comfort may be lost due to physical stress and inclement weather.

6. Who should I call when a death occurs?

Family members should immediately contact a member of the funeral committee for pastoral care and the scheduling of eulogistic services. The committee will see to it that all pertinent information regarding the arrangements are communicated to the proper sources.

7. What services does a funeral director provide?

A funeral director makes all of the arrangements required to transfer the deceased from the place of death to the funeral chapel and to the ultimate place of burial; obtains the death certificates; prepares the remains for burial; aids in the selection of caskets and burial garments; assists in the preparation of obituary notices; and coordinates and supervises the arrangements for funeral services and burial.

The funeral director will arrange for transfer of the deceased to the funeral chapel and the funeral director in collaboration with the church secretary will begin a preliminary discussion regarding the time and place of the funeral.

8. What should I do if the death occurred in a distant place?

Call the funeral director in the location where the funeral service and burial will take place. They can make arrangements to transport a body from any location in the world.

9. What information will I need to provide to the funeral director?

In order to complete the death certificate, the funeral director will need the names of the deceased's parents, including the maiden name of the deceased's mother, the deceased's date of birth, occupation, and social security number. He will also guide you through a series of questions designed to determine your preferences with respect to funeral arrangements, including the order of service to be followed, the type of casket to be used, the wording of obituary notices, etc.

10. How much does a funeral cost?

Although prices vary, a traditional Christian funeral today is between \$4,500 and \$6000 and rising. This cost includes transferring the remains to the funeral chapel and to the place of burial; preparing the remains for burial, a casket and the service fees for arrangements and supervision. Usually not included is the cost of a cemetery plot, cemetery charges for opening and closing the grave site, obituary notices, limousines for family members, certain clergy fees and other optional expenses, all of which can add substantially to the bottom line cost.

V. Funeral Arrangement Do's and Don'ts

1. At no time should funerals be planned without first consulting the church. The schedule of the pastor and the church should be respectfully considered at all times in making eulogistic arrangements.

2. If you have special requests of songs or choirs, please contact the Minister of Music directly. He will gladly work with you to arrange necessary musicians, choirs, and soloists for the service. If you have a soloist or musician you would like to include, please verify this person with the Minister of Music before he/she is scheduled.

3. If you want to include a video presentation, it must be previewed by the funeral committee before it is viewed by the congregation. Please give a copy of the file or dvd to a committee member at least 1 day before the service and every effort will be made to include it in the service.

4. Repasts are courtesies that we extend to bereaved families. Please check with the business manager of church secretary to arrange for a repast. There are costs associated with food, set-up, etc.

5. Most funerals can be sufficiently conducted between 45 minutes to an hour. Be mindful that services that extend beyond 1.5 hours will be subject to an overage fee (\$50.00 per ¼ hour).

*Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
John 14:1*