

# Memorial Garden

## POLICY and PROCEDURES

Unitarian Universalist Church

Midland, Texas

Approved 2016

- a. Subject to meeting all legal requirements and restrictions that pertain, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Midland, Texas, hereby establishes these policies and procedures for the interment of ashes of deceased individuals. The northern section of the church's garden grounds shall be designated the Memorial Garden for this purpose. The use of the garden shall not otherwise be restricted notwithstanding that it is the site of the Memorial Garden.
- b. Upon request of any member, family or friend of the church, in accordance with these policies and procedures as well as other requirements as may pertain, the ashes of a deceased individual may be interred in the Memorial Garden space. The decision on acceptance or rejection of such requests is solely that of the Board of Directors of the church.
- c. No interment of the ashes of an individual shall take place without written permission and a copy of these policies and procedures signed by the Chair of the Board of the church and a representative of the deceased.
- d. Only properly cremated, pulverized ashes shall be interred in the Memorial Garden. No container of any kind may be buried. It is the responsibility of those requesting use of the Memorial Garden to present the ashes in acceptable form on a date and time that has been mutually agreed to by representatives of the deceased and the appropriate church officials. Storage of ashes prior to burial shall be the responsibility of the requestor. Ashes shall not be stored at the church. It is recognized that weather conditions or other circumstances may affect when ashes may be buried or scattered.
- e. Ashes may be scattered in any area of the Memorial Garden space but can be buried only on the grassed turf area of the space. Any interment, if buried, must be at least two feet from the edge of the planting bed and at a minimum of six inches below the surface of the lawn area. Any lawn area disturbed in the interment process shall be restored to its original condition. Any flowers or other memorial items used in connection with a specific interment shall be removed at the conclusion of the burial proceeding.
- f. Consistent with the foregoing requirements, applicants may request interment within the Memorial Garden of a specific location, but the church does not guarantee that such requests will be honored. Ashes shall not be recoverable. No headstones or markers of a burial of any kind shall be placed in the garden area. Requestors of use of the Memorial Garden shall be responsible for assuring that the church establishes in a timely manner a formal listing of the deceased in its permanent records, which shall contain the name and dates of birth and death of the individual.
- g. The minister of the church shall maintain an official permanent record of all individuals whose ashes have been buried or scattered in the Memorial Garden.

- h. Any fees resulting from use of the Memorial Garden shall be at the discretion of the Minister and the Board of Directors. Any proceeds generated by the church in this regard shall be added to the endowment of the church. Separately, individual fees paid to the minister or other officials of the church for services rendered shall be determined in advance between the requestor and the minister or church official involved.
- i. The use and maintenance of the Memorial Garden is under the exclusive control of the church. No individual shall acquire any right whatsoever with respect to the Memorial Garden, its existence, use, appearance, or related records.
- j. Each applicant for use of the Memorial Gardens shall be given a copy of this document, which shall be signed by the applicant and the designated official of the church prior to interment. The Memorial Garden may be used only in accordance with these policies.
- k. The Board of Directors shall have full authority to administer the Memorial Garden consistent with these policies and procedures, including the right to modify these policies and to determine and establish additional regulations concerning the Memorial Garden.

SIGNATURES:

\_\_\_\_\_  
President, Unitarian Universalist Church Board  
Or Minister

\_\_\_\_\_  
Applicant

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date