



“We Engage and Embrace ALL as we seek to Embody Christ!”

## **Central Union Church**

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January 2017

**Memorials and Funerals**



### ***Postlude***

A concluding musical composition designed to reflect the peace and hope found in the promises of God. Specific musicians and compositions are chosen in consultation with Central Union Church's Director of Music Ministries.

### ***Types of Services***

- **Memorial**: This service is held with the urn present and the family has the option of providing a portrait of the life being celebrated.
- **Funeral**: This service is held with the casket present at the service. Viewing of the body may take place before the service begins.
- **Committal**<sup>1</sup> (Inurnment): This service takes place following the memorial or funeral service at the cemetery, or in the case of scattering ashes, at sea or another special location. A minister is available to preside over the service upon the family's request.

### ***CUC Minister and Staff Participation***

The Senior Minister of Central Union Church, or designate, is responsible for all Memorial and Funeral Services held on campus. *The CUC minister will be responsible for the welcome and invocation, words of hope, pastoral prayer, commendation and benediction.* The role of the guest minister may include scripture readings, the eulogy or remembrance, or other parts of the service as agreed upon by the officiating minister.

<sup>1</sup>Commit to the care of God.

### ***Planning for the Service***

After the Church has been notified about the death of a loved one, the Funeral Coordinator will arrange a meeting with the members of the family who are planning the service and the CUC minister. We encourage family members to bring favorite Bible passages, hymns, poems, and photos to the meeting. On the day of the service, families will be assisted by the Diaconate<sup>2</sup>.

### ***Service Bulletins***

The Funeral Coordinator will work with the family to create and print the service bulletins.

### ***Music and Electronic Equipment***

The Ministerial staff and the Director of Music Ministries will work with the family to identify personalized music options for the service.

<sup>2</sup>The Diaconate consists of lay women (Deaconesses) and men (Deacons) who are members of the church.

### ***Pastoral Prayer***

The Pastoral Prayer is a prayer offered with a spirit of care and compassion. The prayer is an opportunity to ask for God's guidance, wisdom, and peace for the bereaved. Typically, the Pastoral Prayer ends with those in attendance saying in unison the Lord's Prayer ("Our Father...").

### ***Hymn***

Music meant to offer solace and hope for the bereaved as well as thanks and praise to God for the gifts of life and grace.

### ***Words of Appreciation***

The Words of Appreciation are an opportunity for a family member to express gratitude to those who attended the service and have supported the family during this time of mourning.

### ***Commendation and Benediction***

The Commendation is a prayer of blessing which commits the departed into the presence of God. The Commendation is often followed by a Benediction which is a prayer of blessing spoken of those in attendance sending them forth with grace.

### ***Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)***

Words of Remembrance are often offered by family and close friends as a way to honor the departed, say goodbye, and bless those in attendance with shared memories. Words of Remembrance may focus on a particular role (*husband, father, friend, etc*), particular characteristics or achievements, or a particular time in the life of the departed. Details such as the number and length of remembrances offered should be discussed with the officiating Central Union minister.

### ***Scripture Reading(s)***

The bereaved are invited to choose scripture(s) that speak to their loss and their hope. The officiating Central Union minister is able to share scriptures to choose from.

### ***Words of Hope (Sermon)***

Words of Hope are meant to acknowledge the reality of the loss and the promise of the gospel. The Christian faith proclaims that life, not death, is the final and defining word.

### ***Flowers***

The family may provide flowers and/or wreaths for the service and is responsible for removing these items immediately following the service. CUC has a Flower Committee that is available to assist with flower arrangements upon request.

### ***Photography and Videography***

Photography and videography are permitted, with some limitations. Details can be discussed further with the Funeral Coordinator.

### ***Police, Fire, and Military Honors***

Memorial services honoring Police Officers, Firefighters, and United States Military Servicemen and Servicewomen may be conducted at CUC.

### ***Reception***

Space is available for a reception in the Parish Hall, Women's Building, and Atherton Courtyard.

### ***Costs***

Costs include fees for facilities, staff, and other services based on current rates.

***Sample Service Bulletin***

Prelude

*Welcome and Invocation*

Music - Hymn/Solo

Words of Remembrance (Eulogy)

Scripture Reading(s)

*Words of Hope (Sermon)*

*Pastoral Prayer*

Hymn

Words of Appreciation

*Commendation and Benediction*

Postlude

**Parts of the service to be led by the CUC minister are *italicized*.**

*Below are brief descriptions for each of the parts of the service.*

***Prelude***

Introductory musical compositions designed to set the tone for the service. Specific musicians and compositions are chosen in consultation with Central Union Church's Director of Music Ministries.

***Welcome and Invocation***

Opening words of welcome are meant to center those in attendance and frame the service of thanksgiving for the life of the departed. The Welcome is often linked together with the Invocation. The Invocation is an introductory prayer designed to bless those in attendance by opening them to God's comforting and healing presence.

***Music - Hymn/Solo***

Music meant to offer solace and hope for the bereaved as well as thanks and praise to God for the gifts of life and grace.