

Fairview United Church

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*“In Life, In Death, In Life Beyond Death”*

*Funeral Guidelines*

Thank you for inviting us to help create a Service of Celebration honouring the life of your loved one. As a Christian community we believe that the funeral or memorial service should be a service of worship centered on life, faith, and the eternal Spirit of God.

The following information is provided to assist you in planning a funeral or memorial service.

*Revised by Fairview United Church Council – February 17, 2015*

*The death of a loved one is a time to recall the miracle of life,  
to give thanks for the life of the deceased, and to mourn the loss.  
The Bible reflects many emotional responses to the reality of grief,  
including anger, denial, guilt, lamentations, resignation, thanksgiving, and trust.  
Empowered by Christ’s promise of resurrection, the Christian church faces the event of death,  
consols the bereaved, celebrates the life of the deceased, and offers thanks to God.  
In such ways, Christians affirm their belief that there is hope in death as in life,  
and that there is renewed life, in Christ, after death.  
“In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God”*

*-adapted from “Celebrate God’s Presence”*

### *Our Funeral Policies and Practices*

1. Fairview United Church is pleased to respond to requests to lead funerals or memorial services for members, adherents, or their families, and members of the wider community.
2. We encourage you to celebrate the service in the church, which is an appropriate and meaningful place for funerals and memorial services. We will also conduct services at a funeral chapel or other locale.
3. Visitation may be held at the church. Please discuss this arrangement with the minister as soon as possible.
4. Following the service, a reception provided by our United Church Women (UCW) may be arranged and held in the Church Hall upon request. Please contact the church at 902-443-7123.
5. As a way of honouring your loved one, your friends and family may wish to consider making Memorial Donations to Fairview United Church. We would be pleased to provide you with cards and envelopes.
6. If your loved one was a member of an organization that traditionally holds a separate service of remembrance, it is usual that the service be held in the funeral home. If this is not possible, please consult the minister.

### *The Service of Worship*

Funeral and memorial services are usually brief services of the Word. There may be 2 or 3 Scripture readings, hymns, a short reflection, and opportunities for additional gifts of music, personal words of remembrance or a eulogy. For services held in our church we will provide a written Order of Service. We encourage family and friends to participate in worship through the reading of Scripture, sharing stories of the deceased's life and faith, and offering gifts of music. The minister will be pleased to help you choose appropriate readings, songs, hymns, etc.

### *Suggested Hymns for Your Consideration*

The following are hymns found in our hymnbook, **Voices United**, that are suitable for a funeral or memorial service. You may wish to discuss other selections with the minister.

|     |                                  |     |                                 |     |                                |
|-----|----------------------------------|-----|---------------------------------|-----|--------------------------------|
| 149 | When I Survey the Wondrous Cross | 424 | May The God of Hope Go with Us  | 657 | He Leadeth Me                  |
| 236 | Now Thank We All Our God         | 436 | Abide with Me                   | 663 | My Faith Looks Up to Thee      |
| 237 | How Great Thou Art               | 497 | Nearer, My God, to Thee         | 664 | What A Friend We Have in Jesus |
| 260 | God Who Gives to Life            | 586 | We Shall Go Out in Hope         | 675 | Will Your Anchor Hold          |
| 266 | Amazing Grace                    | 635 | All the Way My Saviour Leads Me | 703 | In the Bulb There Is a Flower  |
| 288 | Great Is Thy Faithfulness        | 644 | I Was There to Hear             | 705 | For All the Saints             |
| 333 | Love Divine                      | 651 | Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah  | 747 | The Lord's My Shepherd         |

To assist the church in providing this ministry to you, an honorarium is customarily paid to the staff members providing your funeral or memorial service. The following guidelines may be helpful:

|                |                                      |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| Minister       | \$150                                |
| Music Director | \$150                                |
| Caretaker      | \$50                                 |
| Soloist        | please arrange this with the soloist |
| Luncheon       | by donation to the UCW               |

Donations to the work of the church are always gratefully received. Cheques are to be made payable to Fairview United Church