

DENVER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
(DUMC) CEMETERY POLICY & BY-LAWS
Amended November, 2020

The purchasers of the right to be buried shall abide by the policy and by-laws as written and approved by the DUMC Trustees and DUMC Administrative Board. The policy and by-laws may be amended periodically.

1. It should be understood that DUMC, through its Cemetery Committee, does not sell real estate, but merely grants the right to be buried in a gravesite. The real estate will remain in the full authority, ownership and control of DUMC.
2. The cemetery has corner rebar markers for each gravesite block. Regular gravesites are five (5) feet by ten (10) feet. Cremation gravesites are two (2) feet by two (2) feet. A plat of the cemetery is maintained by the Cemetery Committee.
3. The cemetery is mowed and fertilized and seeded regularly by the church landscape contractor.
4. All reserved gravesites are recorded and kept in the DUMC Reserved Plot Ledger (the Ledger). At the time of purchase a receipt will be issued to the purchaser and a copy filed with the Ledger. The purchase transaction will be recorded in the Ledger listing all information: name of purchaser, Block #, Section #, Plot #, price, date paid and (military service). The Ledger will be kept in a secure location at the church.
5. For either regular or cremation gravesites, a fee for the right of burial will be:
 - \$100.00 for church members and their minor children, 18 years and under;
 - \$250.00 will be charged per grave for church members' immediate family, who are not church members (father, mother, adult children and their spouses).
 - \$1,500.00 will be charged for non-church members.

Two gravesites are the maximum that can be selected by non-church members, and each grave (both church members, immediate church member family and non-church members) must be identified with a name. ALL FEES ARE PAYABLE AT THE TIME OF SELECTION. If not paid, the gravesites will remain in the inventory of available sites for immediate selection.

6. At the time of purchase, the site orientation will be decided. Blocks 1- 28 plus 53 – 62 will face EAST. Blocks 29 - 46 plus 50 - 52 and 63 – 65 will face WEST. In all blocks, the wife will be positioned on the left side of husband.
7. The Cemetery Committee will review the Ledger periodically to determine if any gravesites are eligible to be returned to the church. If for any reason the purchased plots are not used for the person for whom they were purchased, the plots must be returned to DUMC for the original purchase price. No gravesite can be willed, given, sold or ownership transferred without the expressed approval of DUMC Cemetery Committee.
8. At any time, prior to use, the fee for the right of burial can be refunded for the amount originally paid. Once monies are returned, the site will be added back to the inventory of available grave sites.
9. Memorials made payable to DUMC are encouraged. In the 'FOR' line, on the check, it should indicate "DUMC Cemetery Fund".
10. The Cemetery Committee has the authority to handle the financial situation of indigent cases and to make an annual budget for the upkeep of the cemetery including landscaping.

11. Within six (6) months of burial; the Cemetery Committee requires, as a condition for burial, placing a permanent marker, either bronze or stone, for both regular and cremation sites. Temporary markers are to be provided by servicing mortuary/family at time of burial. The grave marker cannot exceed the confines of the grave, except for those situations of adjoining family burials, then the marker can be placed equally on both graves. Where appropriate, all markers are to be in line.
Retractable vases with flowers (live and/or artificial) are the only adornments permitted in the Church Cemetery. Any other adornments must be approved by the Cemetery Committee before placement.

“Adornment -- something that adds attractiveness; ornament; accessory; ornamentation; embellishment.”

12. A concrete outer burial container (vault) is required for burials (whether regular or cremation) in the regular portion of the cemetery. However, use of an outer burial container (vault) in the designated cremation portion of cemetery is not required.
13. The funeral director, or whoever opens the grave, must notify the DUMC Cemetery Committee at least 24 hours prior to actual interment. Additionally, the funeral director, or whoever opens the grave, will be required to properly cover the ground adjacent to the gravesite with a suitable material for the placement of earth removed for the grave. Sod will be removed before digging the grave and retained for replacement. The funeral director, or whoever closes the grave, will be responsible for removing any excess earth to area designated by the Cemetery Committee. The new grave will be left in a neat and orderly condition. Additional sod or repairs may be required as determined by the Cemetery Committee.
14. Removal of the flowers following the funeral will be the responsibility of the family or church landscape contractor. This will be done within seven days following the burial, floral arrangements are encouraged but should be removed in a timely manner. When arrangements become unsightly, they will be removed by the church landscape contractor.
15. The Cemetery Committee is to consist of no more than nine (9) persons. Members are to serve on a three-year rotating schedule. The appointments to this committee are to be made by the Nominating Committee and approved by the Administrative Board and the Charge Conference.
16. The Cemetery Committee will be responsible for the accuracy and keeping of the Ledger.
17. CREMATION: Cremains of two persons may be buried in one regular (5'X10') gravesite, a marker for each person or a joint single marker may be used. In either case the marker can not exceed the confines of the single burial site. Additionally, cremains may be buried in the DUMC Cremation Area. These burial sites are two feet by two feet and may contain multiple cremains in a single cremains' container, if utilized. The marker for either type burial must be in compliance with by-law # 11.
18. DUMC and Cemetery Committee shall be indemnified in the following manner: The installer shall be responsible for all liability arising from or by reason of the acts of its employees' work at DUMC Cemetery Committee. The installer agrees to indemnify and hold harmless DUMC and Cemetery Committee, including those bodily injury, property damage or negligence which occurs due to actual or alleged charges in connection with performance of and arising from acts of the installer, his employees, agents, subcontractors, or general supervision by Denver United Methodist Church and Cemetery Committee, except for injury or damage resulting from the sole negligence of DUMC and Cemetery Committee.

19. Disinterment of body or cremains from a grave in DUMC Cemetery whether for the purpose of relocation or for any other reason shall be arranged by a licensed funeral home director and shall be done in accordance with the requirements or the statutes of the State of North Carolina and the rules of the State Board of Health. Fees for such services, as well as any damages that might occur to adjacent lots, will be the sole responsibility of the person who originally purchased the right to be buried or their heirs.
20. The effective date for the above Policy and By Laws is November 1, 2020. Those right to be buried purchased prior to January 1, 2017 are governed by Policy and By Laws in effect at time of purchase. Updates posted are:
- Prior to October 12, 2012;
 - October 12, 2012 to August 2, 2014;
 - August 2, 2014 to January 1, 2017
 - January 1, 2017 to April 1, 2017
 - April 1, 2017 to March 1, 2018
 - March 1, 2018 to July 1, 2020
 - July 1, 2020 to November 2020