

Dorchester Presbyterian Church  
Funeral/Memorial Service Guidelines  
Session Approved: March 21, 2017

These guidelines are designed to assist the pastor, funeral directors, and DPC staff in a Service of Witness to the Resurrection and celebration of life.

A. The Service

1. The Funeral/Memorial Service at Dorchester Presbyterian Church shall be a Christian service, rather than a secular service.
2. When a Funeral/Memorial Service is held at Dorchester Presbyterian Church, any club, civil or fraternal ceremonies are to be conducted at the funeral home or graveside rather than the church sanctuary.
3. The service shall be under the direction of the pastor as directed by the Book of Order. Others may be invited to participate as leaders in the service at the discretion of the pastor.
4. In the case of a family request to have another person preside other than the current DPC pastor, it is the desire of the Session to have the current DPC pastor take the lead in planning the service as well as taking part in the actual service.
5. If Dorchester Presbyterian Church is without a pastor or unable to lead the service, the current Worship Committee Chair should be consulted.
6. The Funeral/Memorial service shall not be scheduled within two hours of the conclusion of another service.
- 7.) The casket may be open during visitation (if desired), but it shall be closed following visitation as well as during and after the service.

B. The Sanctuary

1. A casket: A pall to cover the casket is preferred, except in the case that the deceased was an active or retired military member and the family prefers the casket to be draped in a flag. Flowers may be placed with a single picture on the communion table.
2. An urn: An American Flag, a single picture, and the urn may be placed on the communion table during the service.
3. Additional flowers and all other pictures/memorabilia should be set-up in the Narthex or Fellowship Hall.

C. Fee

1. Pastors and the organist are compensated by Dorchester Presbyterian Church and do not require any further compensation from members. The organist shall be compensated \$150.00 by Dorchester Presbyterian Church.
2. Gratuities for a Funeral/Memorial Service of a non-DPC member and or/those including non-DPC leadership, shall be covered by the family.

D. Photography/Cell Phones

The use of photography and video equipment, including cell phones, is prohibited during the service as it is believed to detract from worship and deter the healing process.

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E. Reception

If a Reception is desired, planning will be coordinated between the Bereavement Committee and the family of the deceased.

F. Memorial Garden Placement of Ashes

Per memorial garden guidelines-ashes will be placed in the garden after arrangements have been made, per memorial garden policies.

Prepared by: Worship committee