

APPENDIX 4.2

FUNERAL POLICY

FUNERAL WORSHIP SERVICES

Funerals are worship services where we gather to

- proclaim God to be our hope and our salvation
- remember our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- celebrate the life of the deceased
- find comfort in God's presence
- find support from the community's presence

SANCTUARY AND CHAPEL

Individuals and families under pastoral care at Grace United Church have access to the Sanctuary and Chapel for funeral worship services. We encourage the use of Grace's worship space, but recognize that some families prefer that the funeral be conducted at a funeral home, cemetery or other location. Wherever the location, a Grace United Church Minister presiding at a funeral worship service is accountable to Grace Council and Lambton Presbytery.

REQUESTS FROM NON-GRACE MEMBERS

It is at the discretion of the ministers whether to perform a funeral for those who are not significantly connected to Grace.

REQUESTS FOR AN OUTSIDE MINISTER TO USE GRACE

Grace United Church's Minister, if available will preside at all funerals in the Sanctuary and Chapel. If the Minister is not available, Grace United Church will provide an alternate Minister. Requests for additional clergy to assist are subject to the approval of the presiding Minister. Fees for additional clergy are the responsibility of the family.

OTHER EXPECTATIONS

The family can expect a planning meeting with the Minister prior to the funeral or memorial service to discuss the service and attend to pastoral care needs. Special circumstances may require a meeting by telephone. An honorarium may apply for extra services such as special bulletin production or audio-video services.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

Grace United Church's Music Director, if available, will lead congregational music at all funerals in the Sanctuary and Chapel. If the Music Director is not available, Grace United Church will provide an alternate musician. Requests for additional musicians are subject to the approval of the presiding Minister in consultation with the Music Director or alternate. Fees for the Music Director or additional musicians are the responsibility of the family. Funeral homes are responsible for providing musicians for funerals in their buildings.

OFF SITE FUNERAL REQUESTS

Grace United Church Ministers will preside at off site funerals for members and adherents. Requests from Non-Grace Members or funeral homes for off-site funerals will be fulfilled at the discretion of the Minister, who has been asked to preside,