

**GRACE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH**  
***Memorial Garden Policy***

The Grace United Methodist Church Memorial Garden will be a place of natural beauty and remembrance and used for the inhuming of ashes from cremations.

- I. The ashes will be buried directly in the soil and become a part of the life of the garden. Interments will be made when the ground is free of frost, ice or snow.
- II. There will be no buried containers, nor scattered ashes on the surface. A request for placement will be honored.
- III. No memorial markers, plaques, cut flowers (real or artificial), will be permitted as it is to be a LIVING GARDEN. A separate, stand-alone monument shall be placed in the center of the Memorial Garden. This marker will not contain any names or dates.
- IV. The names of the interred will be placed in the Memorial Garden Log Book and inscribed on bronze leaves for the display inside the church near the door to the Garden. The original Memorial Garden Certificate must be presented and transferred to the church at the time of inhuming of ashes.
- V. The ashes will be brought to the church at the time of interment, by the family or the funeral home. The church building will not be a repository for ashes.
- VI. Interment will be carried out by the Pastor. Ashes will be placed in a trench dug between the permanent plantings of the garden. The opening will be sufficiently deep and long enough to hold the ashes, replaced soil, and a mulch covering.
- VII. The Garden will be available for use by church family members and friends of the church.
- VIII. The fee for interment will be \$300.00. This fee may be waived at the discretion of the Pastor. It does not include any gratuity for pastoral services. Fees are not refundable.
- IX. Interment arrangements will be made through the funeral home or directly with the church. The Pastor will meet with the bereaved regarding memorial services. Church office personnel will supply information and gather data for record-keeping purposes.
- X. Interments may be held following a memorial service or at a separate time. Family and friends may be present or not as is their wish.
- XII. All monies will be deposited in the Grace United Methodist Church General Fund.
- XIV. Changes in these guidelines or the physical design of the Memorial Garden must be approved by the Memorial Garden Team and Board of Trustees.