

St. Paul's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden Rules and Regulations

Christians have historically laid their family members to rest in a churchyard adjacent to their church, where they can come to pray and reflect on their loved ones' lives. The Memorial Garden at St. Paul's was created to meet the needs of the members of St. Paul's and their families. The Memorial Garden is a consecrated place for the interment or scattering of cremains of deceased members of the parish, their immediate family, and others (as approved), near the church we love.

1. St. Paul's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden

The St. Paul's Episcopal Church Memorial Garden ("Memorial Garden") is established to provide a consecrated area available for the interment of and the scattering of human cremated remains (cremains). The Memorial Garden is situated on land occupied by St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 39 E. Central Street, Natick, Massachusetts, and shall consist of the following;

- a. **Burial Area** for interment of cremains in burial plots. Each burial plot will be approximately one foot square (1 ft x 1 ft). Plots in the Burial Area will be two layers of burial plots, one on top of the other.
- b. **Garden Area** for the scattering of cremains. The Garden Area is defined as the planted garden beds within the memorial Garden, and does not include the Burial Area.

2. Governing Body

The Memorial Garden is to be operated and administered by the St. Paul's Memorial Garden Board of Overseers ("Board"). The Board shall consist of three members, appointed by the Vestry. The Board will be responsible for the continuing care of the Memorial Garden, which includes maintenance and repairs. The Board is also responsible for keeping accurate records of those buried.

3. Eligibility

Use of the Memorial Garden for interment or scattering of cremains is available to the following groups of people;

- a. Clergy, past and present, of St. Paul's, and their immediate family members.
- b. Current and former members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church and their immediate family members. Membership in St. Paul's Episcopal Church is defined in the By-Laws of the church.
- c. Immediate family members are defined as spouses, children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, siblings, and spouses of the people in this group.

- d. Other persons as recommended by the Rector and approved by the Vestry.

4. Burial Options

a. Individual Burial Plots located in the Burial Area

- 1) Burial of cremains is permitted either, a) poured directly into a burial plot or b) placed in a biodegradable container which is interred in a burial plot. Permanent urns or other containers that are not biodegradable are not permitted.
- 2) A biodegradable container used for cremains can be no larger than 6" wide x 6" long x 10" high.
- 3) The representatives of the decedent are responsible for securing the requisite burial permit prior to interment.
- 4) The time and manner of interment will be determined by the Rector. Weather conditions such as frozen ground and snow cover are also considerations.
- 5) A record of each interment shall become part of the official records of the Church and include the following information;
 - i) location of the burial plot
 - ii) date of interment
 - iii) full name of the decedent
 - iv) dates of birth and death
- 6) The Board will issue two copies of a Record of Interment. One copy shall become part of the permanent, official records of the Church. The other copy shall be provided to the decedent's family or legal representative.

b. Scattering of Cremains in the Garden Area

- 1) The scattering of cremains is permitted in the planted garden areas around the Burial Area, but not on top of the Burial Area.
- 2) The representatives of the decedent are responsible for securing the requisite burial permit prior to interment.
- 3) The time and manner of the scattering of cremains will be determined by the Rector. Weather conditions such as frozen ground and snow cover are also considerations.
- 4) A record of each scattering shall become part of the official records of the Church and include the following information;
 - i) date of scattering
 - ii) full name of the decedent
 - iii) dates of birth and death
- 5) The Board of Overseers will issue two copies of a Record of Scattering of Cremains. One copy shall become part of the permanent, official records of the Church. The other copy shall be provided to the decedent's family or legal representative.

5. Application for Burial or Scattering of Cremains

- a. An Application for Interment Burial Plot or Scattering of Human Cremains will be required for each burial or scattering. The application form may be obtained from St. Paul's church office. Application may be made anytime prior to burial.
- b. A non-refundable initial fee of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00), payable to the St. Paul's Memorial Garden Fund, is required with the Application. This initial fee will be credited towards the total fees.
- c. If the application is for a burial plot, a plot number will be assigned and reserved for the applicant, after the application is approved by the Board of Overseers.
- d. In the event an Applicant does not have his or her cremains interred or scattered in the Memorial Garden within 25 years of the date of application, the Board of Overseers may recommend cancellation of the Application. The Vestry then may, after investigation, authorize cancellation of the Application.

6. Fees for Burial or Scattering of Cremains

- a. The fees are due at the time of interment or scattering, payable to the St. Paul's Memorial Garden Fund.
- b. The fees are as follows
 - Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$650.00) for Burial Plot
 - Six Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$650.00) for Scattering
- c. Fees are subject to change at anytime at the discretion of the Vestry.
- d. The fees can be pre-paid in full at anytime. The applicant will not be subject to any future fee increases once the fees are paid in full.
- e. The fees include purchase and mounting of a nameplate on the Memorial Plaque.
- f. The fees do not include:
 - Clergy honorarium.
 - Fees, if any, associated with use of the Church for a funeral, memorial service, or reception.
 - Services traditionally provided by a funeral home or undertaker.

7. Memorial Plaque

A bronze plaque showing the given names of the decedents, with dates of birth and death, shall be installed on the church wall near the Memorial Garden. Nameplates for the plaque will be uniform and will be purchased by the Board of Overseers.

8. St. Paul's Memorial Garden Fund

Except as provided herein, the Board of Overseers shall use the Fund solely for the following purposes;

- Costs incurred for interment or scattering
- Costs for purchase and engraving a nameplate, including date of birth and date of death, for the Memorial Plaque
- General maintenance and upkeep of the Memorial Garden

9. Prohibition against Monuments

No monument, marker, flag, wreath, potted plant, cut flowers, or other object, other than those structures and plantings placed by the Board of Overseers, shall be erected or placed upon or in the area designated as the Memorial Garden.

10. Amendments

Amendments to these Rules and Regulations may be recommended by majority vote of the Board of Overseers. Final approval by the Vestry is required.

Approved by the Rector, Rev. Jon Strand, and Vestry on June 21, 2016