

GUIDELINES FOR BURIAL AT MT. OLIVET BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY

General Guidelines on who is eligible to be interred in the cemetery of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC

1. All active members of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church, their spouses and minor children are eligible for burial plots at no cost.

An active member is defined as someone who, at the time of death, meets two out of three of the following conditions:

- i. On the church roll
 - ii. Attending church regularly (at least monthly) unless hindered by physical reasons.
 - iii. Making regular financial contributions to the church (at least quarterly).
2. Non-active members, non-resident members, and non-members with some connection to the church are eligible for the use of a plot at the time of death.

A non-active member is defined as someone who, at the time of death, is

- i. On the church roll
- ii. Seldom or never attends church (less than once a month)
- iii. Not making regular financial contributions to the church (at least quarterly)

A non-resident member is defined as someone who, at the time of death, is

- i. On the church roll
- ii. Not living in the greater Raleigh Area
- iii. Seldom or never attends church (less than once a month)
- iv. Not making regular financial contributions to the church (at least quarterly)

A non-member with some connection to the church is defined as someone who, at the time of death, is not on the church roll but meets one or more of the following requirements:

- i. Is an immediate family member (spouse, parent, sibling, minor or adult child) of someone on the church roll.
- ii. Is an immediate family member (spouse, parent, and sibling, minor or adult child) of someone who is buried in our cemetery.
- iii. Is a former member of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church.

3. Active church members may express a preference for burial plots. However, the following conditions apply:
 - i. All plots remain the property of Mt. Olivet Baptist Church. No one has the right to sell or otherwise assign a plot to someone else.
 - ii. Members are not reserving a plot, but expressing a preference. Every effort will be made to comply with the preference request.
 - iii. Coping and other markers may not be placed until interment.
 - iv. Coping and other markers placed before this policy goes into effect and before interment are not subject to the conditions of this policy including fees.
 - v. Should the family become inactive, their plot preferences may be reassigned.
 1. When a member moves their membership by letter (or otherwise contacts the church), an effort will be made to inform them in writing that their status on cemetery plots will be changed to non-member status and that all fees will apply.

Although the church will make every effort to allow family members to be interred together, for space management reasons non-active members, non-resident members, and non-members with some connection to the church may not express a preference for specific burial plots.

- vi. The only exception to this rule is for spouses of people interred in the cemetery.
- vii. Non-active members, non-resident members, and non-members with some connection to the church who expressed a preference for a specific burial plot before this policy goes into effect are nevertheless subject to the policy and should not assume that their preference request will be preserved or honored.

The Cemetery Committee shall have oversight of the church cemetery and shall keep an accurate plot map indicating church member's preference.

**Fee Schedule for burial at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church
Raleigh, NC**

1. Because we desire that our cemetery be well maintained in order to honor those who are buried there, we must collect fees. All fees collected shall be deposited in the cemetery maintenance fund and are for the purpose of maintaining the cemetery in perpetuity.
2. Non-active members, non-resident members, and non-members with some connection to the church are eligible to pay an interment fee of \$750.
3. Active church members (see definition above) are eligible for burial plots at no cost.
4. The Cemetery Committee shall periodically review and adjust the fee schedule, subject to oversight by the Elders.
5. Fees shall be collected by the Mortuary/Funeral Home and remitted to the church.
6. Family members of interred individuals are encouraged to make an annual donation to the cemetery maintenance fund in order to help ensure we are able to maintain the cemetery properly.

A. Other Guidelines for Cemetery Use

1. The Cemetery Committee shall designate an active church member(s) to oversee this policy including maintaining the cemetery plot map.
2. Grave plots will be no more than 5' x 10' including coping.
3. Grave coping and markers must be installed by responsible family member within one (1) year of interment. Responsible family member must sign agreement to this effect upon gaining permission for interment.
4. The church is not responsible for repair or maintenance of markers.

5. Family members are encouraged to remove dead/faded flowers, stands, pots, etc. from graves. Care should be taken to ensure that flowers and other objects do not prevent groundskeepers from having access to graves, and groundskeepers will not be responsible for disposal of such items.
6. Coping may only be placed around gravesites upon interment. Coping shall not be placed around unused plots (including unused plots adjacent to an interred individual), with the exception of one plot adjacent to an interred spouse.
7. Fences or barriers of any type construction may not be erected in the cemetery. Fences and barriers in existence on August 23, 2017, (date of policy approval) are exempt from this policy.
8. Any requested exceptions to this policy will be decided by the Cemetery Committee or Elder recommendation.

Two basic guiding principles should be considered in formulating our policy for the cemetery.

- 1) The cemetery should be a place where a compassionate witness of the Lord's church be displayed.**
- 2) The cemetery should be a place maintained to a level that honors the Lord and His church.**