

Proclamation

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Funeral Planning Guide

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Phone _____ Email _____

ONE FORM PER PERSON

The purpose of this form is to guide you in recording personal desires about your funeral and other plans following your death. For a Christian, death is our entrance to glory with a living Savior: *to live is Christ, and to die is gain*. It is a real time of sadness for those who survive, but sensitive planning can at least help their grief to be supported by authentic resurrection hope.

Someone will make these decisions on your behalf if you do not yourself leave a record of your desires. There are more issues to decide than people realize. It is typical to delay these choices, as something you intend to do 'someday.' We urge you to take up those good intentions **today**. You will make things easier for your loved ones and be assured of expressing your own message of hope via the decisions you make.

The original document will be kept in a secure file held by the pastor of Proclamation Presbyterian church and his successors. We suggest that you fill the rest of the document out in pencil, so that revisions can be made easily if-and-when the need arises.

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- 1 **You must first choose between a traditional burial, cremation, or donation of your remains to medical science:** _____
 - 2 **A funeral director must be involved to handle a body according to law.** This firm must be called very soon after death has occurred. There are many reputable area funeral homes. Proclamation has no vested interest in any of them.
 - If you do not have a choice and want guidance, your pastors have experience with local establishments and will be glad to advise you about your best choices.
 - My preference for a funeral home is: _____
 - I have already made arrangements with this funeral home: Yes / No _____

3 **A pastor needs to lead in your funeral services.** If the family knows your choice of pastor, he can be involved early in decisions with the funeral director and guide your loved ones. It is good to indicate a first and second choice of pastors, since as the years pass, your first choice may not remain available; you might also want more than one pastor to be involved in the service for particular reasons.

- My first choice to lead the service is: _____
- My second choice to lead the service is: _____
- I am content with any Proclamation pastor who is available: Yes / No _____
- Regardless of who leads, I hope that _____ might preach.

4 **Consider public viewing and family visitation.** Open casket viewing is not required and some people do not want it. However, you should consider the fact that family and close friends can achieve a certain 'closure' in their loss by viewing mortal remains, sad as this is to experience. If you do not wish for a general public viewing, you might consider a *private* viewing for immediate family and invited persons only.

- _____ I wish for there to be no viewing of my body at all.
- _____ I wish for there to be a private viewing for family and invited persons.
- _____ I wish for a public viewing to which any may come.
- _____ I would like the viewing to occur at the funeral home
- _____ I wish for the viewing to be held at Proclamation before the final service.

5 **Place of Burial or Interment:**

Name of Cemetery _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Details of lot or niche location _____
Additional plot or lot information _____
Cemetery property holder name _____
Is there a monument at the cemetery with your name on it? Yes / No _____

6 **Biographical and Death Certificate Information:**

Date of Birth _____ Place of Birth _____
Occupation _____
Retirement Date _____ Marital Status _____
Name of Spouse (inc. Maiden name) _____
Father _____ Mother (inc. Maiden name) _____
Children _____

Siblings _____

7 Would you like your service to be a **traditional funeral**—that is, a worship service immediately *followed* by burial or interment, **or**, would you like for a burial to occur **privately first**, with just immediate family and invited persons coming to the cemetery, followed by a **public memorial service**? Many Christians find the latter choice allows for the hard grief of actual burial to be dealt with privately, so that the focus of a public memorial service can be more clearly set upon hope in Christ's resurrection. **The choice is up to you.**

- _____ I wish for a traditional funeral service followed immediately by burial, or by the interment of crematory remains. I wish for this service to be held at:

_____ Proclamation Presbyterian Church,
_____ the funeral home of my choice,
_____ or another location: _____

Please note that in any church funeral service, our pastors strongly prefer that the casket be closed before it is taken into the sanctuary for the worship service.

or

- _____ I prefer to have burial or interment of crematory remains at a private cemetery service scheduled for my family and invited friends only. I then wish for a memorial service to be scheduled at a later published time, convenient for all to attend. I wish the memorial service to take place at:

_____ Proclamation Presbyterian Church,
_____ or another location: _____

8 **Are you a veteran of military service?** Yes / No _____

Would like to have a military honor guard present at the graveside service, if that can be arranged? Yes / No _____

9 Proclamation is willing to provide a **time of hospitality after a service at the church**. There is no set cost, but the family can make a donation to assist with costs the church incurs.

- _____ I foresee light refreshments such as coffee, punch, or cookies being served for a fellowship time following the service plan I've indicated above.
- _____ I hope that a light lunch or supper might be served after the service.

11 Particular elements of the funeral or memorial service may be chosen. Pastors are experienced in arranging services that are personal, yet follow a pattern that gives glory to God with hope in Jesus Christ as the main message. We do not stress elaborate honors being paid to the deceased as a human being, but proper eulogies can be given. **Fill in as much as you can of any of the following that apply:**

- _____ I have very specific wishes about the entire service, and I wish to meet with the pastor to put together a detailed service order.
- _____ I have confidence in the presiding pastor to construct a service that honors the Lord, but I submit the following **requests** to be followed:

My preferred organist or pianist is: _____

My second choice of organist or pianist is: _____

A service normally has no more than **three hymns**. Consider hymns that speak of God's grace and faithfulness and the hope of life eternal. A pastor can guide you through this process. My preferred hymns are:

I hope that _____ might sing or play music.

I would also like for this piece of music to be included in the service:

I would like for these Bible passages to be used in the service:

Personal remembrances or tributes are appropriate, but these are best spoken by persons, typically no more than two or three, who are chosen in advance. It would be best if any speakers are Christians who will highlight ways of that your life has given glory to God. We discourage spontaneous 'open microphone' moments, at which anyone present is asked to make comments.

Please sign and date the form. It may also be signed by anyone having legal power of attorney to act for the individual.

_____ Date _____