

Salem United Methodist Church

Irmo, S. C.

September 12, 2017

Cemetery Rules & Regulations

Eligibility for Interment

1. The bodily remains of a person who at the time of death, is a current church member, as recorded through the church office may be eligible to be interred in the cemetery, provided space is available.
2. The bodily remains of a person who at the time of death, was not a member of the church, but was a spouse of a deceased member who is buried in the Cemetery, may be eligible to be interred, provided space is available.
3. The bodily remains of a church member's dependent child (under 26 years of age), may be interred, provided space is available.
4. The Church cemetery has limited space available. However, Salem Church will honor requests from active members to reserve a grave site. Reservation are made by individual name and not sections or groups of grave plots.
5. The Cemetery Committee must first approve all burials that are to take place in the Salem Church Cemetery; to assure the gravesite is reserved for that individual, prior to making any arrangements to use the Cemetery.
6. Salem Church may not honor requests for burial from current or past members if they are not on the cemetery reserve list maintained by the Cemetery Committee and/or the Church office.

Assignment of Burial Plots

7. In compliance with State law, Salem United Methodist Church reserves all rights and title to all cemetery plots.
8. Reservation of a grave site can include any under age children of a church member. The child reservation will become void and inactive 30 days after the child becomes legal age of 26 years, or is married prior to that age, and legally considered an adult. Children that reach the age of 26 years must be responsible to make their own grave plot reservation. If no reservation request is submitted within that 30-day period, the reserved grave site will become available for other church members.

9. If at any time a member of Salem United Methodist Church should transfer, terminate, or their membership becomes inactive for any reason, their reserved gravesite will revert to the church cemetery committee to make available to other members. The exception would be if the spouse of that member is already interred in the Salem cemetery. In this case, a headstone erected with a spouse's name on it will assure permanent reservation of that gravesite.
10. To manage many of these rules and regulations we must define current member or current membership. For administering these rules & regulations, current members will be defined by the membership role maintained by the church office. Salem realizes that due to health reasons many members can't attend services regularly and this is not intended to penalize those members.
11. Members who would like to reserve a cemetery plot can request an assigned gravesite, but it will be the responsibility of the Cemetery Committee to approve all requests prior to reserving any gravesite.
12. All burials in the Salem Cemetery will conform to general accepted burial practices in size and depth, but should not exceed 40" width and 108" in length for a single grave. All coffins will be placed in steel or concrete vaults.

Maintenance of the Cemetery

13. No plants, shrubs, or trees will be planted within the cemetery grounds without prior written approval of the Salem Church Cemetery Committee.
14. Coping around grave sites will only be allowed after Salem Cemetery Committee review. The installation of coping must closely border the dimensions of the grave plot as listed above. Any intrusion outside of these dimensions will result in charges to the responsible church member for the alteration and correction. Acceptable coping is smooth finished commercial granite to conform with the borders that exist in the cemetery.
15. Flowers in containers are allowed at gravesites. All artificial flowers will be removed and discarded once faded. All organic flowers will be removed and discarded once wilting and decay are present.
16. All additions to the cemetery grounds must have written permission from Salem Cemetery Committee. Items include but not limited to, plants, rocks, monuments, markers, flower vase, etc.;
17. The Cemetery Committee strictly prohibits the placement of memorabilia or paraphernalia on gravesites. This includes but not limited to; hats, team flags, lighting of any kind, stuffed or plastic animals, dolls etc.; The Cemetery grounds should be peaceful, reverent, and respectful for all who visit. All items that do not comply with this regulation will be removed and discarded promptly.

18. Small American flags (no larger than 18" in horizontal length) have been pre-approved for placement at gravesites in the cemetery.
19. No admittance to the cemetery grounds after dusk without permission from the Cemetery committee, is permitted.
20. No alcoholic beverages of any kind are allowed on the Cemetery grounds.
21. To submit a reservation for a grave site, an application form will be available on the church website or at the church office. Please complete the form in its entirety and return to the church office or email. The cemetery committee will review and notify you once the process is complete. To maintain record keeping, we will need one form for each grave site. (1 person 1 plot)

Salem United Methodist Church recognizes when death occurs in a family it is a very stressful time. If arrangements can be made in advance it will surely help the family cope. In the past, Salem could grant cemetery plots to all church members in good standing, but due to space restraints that is no longer possible. The Salem United Methodist Church Trustees urge you to confirm all Cemetery grave arrangements or reservations as soon as possible.

It is the position of Salem United Methodist Church and its Board of Trustees, to not expand the grounds of the cemetery. Once the designated land is occupied or reserved for grave sites, the cemetery will no longer have plots available for church members.

Salem Church Cemetery Committee

Approved by the Board of Trustees

Approved by Church Council

Revised from November 1, 1992