

Trinity M.B. Church

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Pastor, Rev. Trevor Crenshaw



Funeral Philosophy and Policy

**The Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away;
blessed be the name of the Lord.
Job 1:21b**

Philosophy and Policy of Christian Funerals at Trinity M.B. Baptist Church

In our efforts to assist you in properly planning the eulogistic services for your loved one, this information has been prepared for your perusal and consideration.

I. The Christian Funeral

The Christian funeral is a worship service in which God's people witness to their faith in the hope of the Gospel, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting and in which also a comforting assurance of God's love and salvation in Christ is ministered, especially to the Christian bereaved.

II. Towards an Understanding of the Christian Funeral

A funeral service at Trinity M.B. Church is worship of the true and living God. The funeral is God's way of bringing comfort to the hearts of those who mourn as scripture is read and preached, prayer is offered, praises are sung, grief is expressed, remembrance is cherished; and it is an occasion in which we, by the grace of God, bless the name of the One who gives and takes away.

The presence of family and friends around at this time serves to support and strengthen those who sorrow. The funeral gives thanks for life and lifts meaningful memories of lost loved ones helping us learn vital lessons from it.

Thus, in the funeral service, we gather primarily to worship God and confess our faith in a living Savior. Though we mourn our loss and remember our loved one, our focus is fixed on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

III. Funeral Matters

- 1.** While many choose the chapel at a funeral home for the memorial service, others prefer the church building where faith is nourished, marriage vows are made, children are baptized, communion is received, and prayers are offered by the people of God.
- 2.** The practice of "viewing the remains" is generally customary in the Baptist Church. However, it is totally a family decision. Accordingly, the church will abide by the family's wishes, but the church reserves the right to have the casket closed during the service. Once closed, the casket will not be reopened.
- 3.** Because fraternal or civil rites are not part of the worship service, these organizations should pay tribute to the deceased at another hour and place.

4. Many people choose to have the memorial service before the burial; others have the burial before the service. Either approach is appropriate. Moreover, the church makes no recommendation in this regard.

5. When funerals are conducted at Trinity M.B. Church, the Pastor ordinarily conducts the eulogistic services in their entirety. The Pastor has the sole responsibility and discretion in carrying out church funeral services. Consequently, outside eulogists are not encouraged to perform family funerals at TMBC, but the Pastor will comply with the wishes of the family.

Only those special request (regarding things pertaining to the service itself, whether music or guest minister) which meet the approval of the officiating minister are acceptable.

IV. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. How soon after death must the funeral occur?

Christian tradition urges that burial occur as soon as possible after death, generally within three to five days.

However, it is customary to avoid burial on the Lord's Day or on a religious holiday and time is often required for close family members to gather. Monday through Saturday is deemed appropriate.

2. Is there a cost for the use of the church? Only in cases where the member has become inactive or is a non-member will there be a cost to use the church for funeral purposes. In this instance a fee is also assessed. Please consult the Leader of the Trustee Ministry for details.

3. What is the best place for a funeral? No one can answer that question for you. This suggestion is offered only to assist you in making a proper determination. Customarily, Christians prefer the church. The church is the sacred center for worship and the most familiar setting in which to contemplate God and sacred events such as communion and baptism.

Through the ages the church has been the gathering place of the saints for the preached word, where the songs and the prayers of believers are lifted to God. These sacred memories comfort those who mourn. The Pastor and the church family will be available for funeral arrangements. It is your church and a Christian burial will not be denied anyone.

4. Does the pastor or his designee perform Graveside Services? Yes. Graveside services are often for simplicity and convenience and are sometimes the expressed wish of the deceased. The following are some issues you may want to consider in making graveside plans. You may wish to consider the forecast for wind, rain, snow or harsh summer temperatures. The time must be brief as to prevent prolonged standing. The ministry of comfort may be lost to physical stress and inclement weather.

5. Who should I call when a death occurs?

Family members should immediately contact the pastor for pastoral care services and the

scheduling of eulogistic service. The pastor can provide invaluable spiritual and emotional support in a time of bereavement as God's personal presence in the midst of loss.

6. Is there a meal provided for the family?

Trinity M.B. Church will be happy to provide a meal in the fellowship hall, first level, or both, at the request of the family. There is no charge for members. For non-members, the kitchen, fellowship hall and first level, can be utilized at the fee provided by the Trustee Ministry.

V. Funeral Arrangement Do's and Don'ts

1. At no time should funerals be planned without first consulting the Pastor and the church. The schedule of the pastor and the church should be respectfully considered at all times in making eulogistic arrangements.

Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.
John 14:1

VI. Fee

(A) **For members**

Use of sanctuary, fellowship hall and kitchen – no charge

(B) **Non-Members**

- 1. Sanctuary only.....\$200.00
- 2. Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen\$400.00
- 3. Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall, Kitchen and First level.....\$550.00
- 4. Fellowship Hall only.....\$150.00 or \$50.00/hr
- 5. All monies received are non-refundable except for emergency situations such as death, sickness, etc. This is to be determined by the Trinity M.B. Church Trustee Ministry.

REQUEST FOR FUNERAL SERVICE

Trinity Missionary Baptist Church

Date of Service _____

Responsible Party _____

Present Address _____ Phone _____

Is the deceased a member of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church? Yes ____ No ____

Please reserve for us: (check one)

- Sanctuary only Fellowship Hall only Fellowship Hall and Kitchen
 Sanctuary, Fellowship Hall and Kitchen First level

Minister: _____

Please return to the church office at your earliest convenience as your reservation can be confirmed only upon receipt of the above information.

We agree to comply with the rules and regulations of Trinity Missionary Baptist Church.

Signature of Responsible Party _____ Date _____

Please remove all decorations afterwards and return the room to its original condition. If you're using the fellowship hall and the kitchen, we ask that you empty all the trash and install new trash liners when finished. Please take all trash to the dumpster behind the sanctuary/first level.