

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

BURNET, TEXAS

PRAYER GARDEN POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Purpose and Design of Garden

The purpose of the Prayer Garden is to provide a place on church property which offers a place of quiet and beauty. Experiencing the life cycle of creation, death and new life inspires a sense of hope, confidence and caring for ourselves. Spending time in the Prayer Garden and reconnecting with nature not only heals the pain of losing a loved one but can also bring a sense of peace and clarity amidst life's challenges. Quite simply, a healing garden is designed to make people feel better. The church's Prayer Garden is intended as a place for contemplative thought and prayer as well as for memorializing a loved one.

Use of the garden

The Prayer Garden shall be open to the public at any time for quiet prayer and meditation. Those wishing to use the Prayer Garden as a memorial garden shall sign an application form included in this policy indicating knowledge and acceptance of the guidelines in place for the garden. In order to comply with the Americans with Disability Act the church is committed to full compliance of nondiscrimination on the basis of race, sex, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status and veteran status; and this applies to the Prayer Garden as well as the church facility.

Memorials

Individuals who wishes to memorialize a loved one shall have the opportunity to purchase items including a memorial brick, bench and/or tree or bush for placement in the Prayer Garden. Purchase options shall be managed by the garden committee, and the committee shall make the decision as to the placement of an item in the Prayer Garden. The exact location of memorial items shall be recorded on a master grid kept by the committee and the church office.

Donations

Financial contributions for the care of the Prayer Garden are always welcome as are donations of plants, trees, statuary or other items. Funds will be used solely to maintain the Prayer Garden.

Guidelines

The Prayer Garden is maintained as a serene place for prayer and contemplation by all persons. No personalized displays of flowers, signs, symbols or statuary are permitted in or around the Prayer Garden without prior approval of the committee. Likewise, no artificial flowers and/or homemade items are permitted. This is not designed to be an area to scatter ashes, and this practice will not be allowed. Persons wishing to have a tree or bush planted in the Prayer Garden shall select from the choices available from the committee. No picking of flowers or removal of vegetation shall be allowed.

As the Prayer Garden is an area for prayer and contemplation no bicycles, skateboards or roller blades are allowed. Likewise no loud music is allowed. No events shall be scheduled in the Prayer Garden without the prior approval of the garden committee. No signs, posters, banners or advertising are to be constructed, erected, installed or placed in any area of the Prayer Garden. No smoking is allowed, and no alcoholic beverage are allowed in the garden or on the church grounds. Any dog brought to the Prayer Garden must be on a leash.

Management of the Garden

The Prayer Garden is managed by the garden committee who shall report to the Administrative Board and other committees as deemed necessary. The committee through a designated member shall maintain appropriate records for purchases, donations and expenses. All funds received shall be placed in a designated account and disbursed upon the request of the committee. The committee shall handle all matters relating to the operation and maintenance of the Prayer Garden. All records of the garden committee shall be subject to audit as are other accounts and funds of the church.

Prayer Garden Application and Record

This application affirms that I (we) have read the Prayer Garden Policy and Procedures and wish to apply and pay for a memorial item subject to said policy and procedures.

Enclosed is a check in the amount of \$_____to cover the expenses for the following:

_____ **Memorial brick(s)**

Please print clearly the information you would like shown on each brick:

_____ 2 lines 16 characters includes spaces and punctuation-\$35.00

_____ 3 lines 16 characters includes spaces and punctuation-\$40.00

_____ 2 lines 16 characters includes spaces and punctuation-\$35.00

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