

FUNERAL POLICY

of

THE TABERNACLE

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

Milwaukee, Wisconsin

THE MISSION OF TABERNACLE COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

To provide a ministry of pastoral care, spiritual presence, and grief support to member-families during end-of-life experiences, death and other significant loss.

THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

The Christian funeral is a worship service in which a comforting assurance of God's love and salvation in Christ is ministered to the Christian bereaved. It is God's way of bringing comfort to those who mourn, and it is an occasion in which we bless the name of the One who gives and takes away.

PROVIDING HOPE...IN TIME OF GRIEF

Jesus Christ has given us the victory. In sorrow, there is rejoicing. In death, there is life. In suffering, there is victory in Jesus Christ. The Tabernacle Fellowship stands ready to assist bereaved families. Member families are encouraged to have funeral services in our sanctuary so that hymns, prayers, and praise can be offered to God and ministry service provided. Those who prefer may also have funeral services held at the Funeral Home. At this time of loss, the members of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church extend our heartfelt sympathy, prayers, and support. May the peace of Christ be with you!

From Pastor Butler and the Tabernacle Community Baptist Church Family

CONTACT LIST

Upon the death of a family member please follow this protocol:

1. Immediately contact Pastor Butler by this order of numbers:

- Cell Phone: 615.414.5720
- Home Phone: 262.309.6203
- Office Phone: 414.562.1129

If unable to reach Pastor Butler (within 30 minutes):

2. Contact The Reverend Amanda Gray, Associate Minister for Bereavement Care – by this order of numbers:

- Cell Phone: 414.759.9767
- Home Phone: 414.442.5464

3. Contact your local funeral director

4. Contact other relatives and friends of the deceased.

PROTOCOL FOR FUNERAL SERVICE AND GRAVESIDE RITES

The Pastor has the prerogative of presiding over all funerals and preaching the eulogy of all members of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church. Our Associate Ministers, Deacons, Mothers, Music Ministry members, Ushers, Culinary Ministry members and other members will provide all ministry services for funerals held at Tabernacle Community Baptist Church. Any deviation from this protocol must be pre-approved by the Pastor. In addition, any activities to take place before the funeral service, such as family visitation or rites conducted by social or fraternal organizations, must conclude no less than fifteen minutes prior to the commencement of the funeral service.

Military rites, if applicable, may be conducted at the graveside immediately after religious rites have been completed. Rites by Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Masonic Orders, etc., are encouraged to be held at the graveside to honor Christians with military service.

Graveside Rites will include:

- Reading of Scripture
- Committal of Body
- Final Benediction

**THE LITURGY FOR
THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE AND RESURRECTION***

Prelude

Processional

Clergy Participants and Family *(optional)*

The Gathering

The Reverend Don Darius Butler

Hymn of Celebration

(print title of hymn in program)

Reading of Scripture

Old Testament _____

New Testament _____

(Family may select scriptures that were of significance to deceased or speaks to the decedent's life. Family may select readers for the scripture reading.)

Prayer of Consolation

Choral Music

Tabernacle Choir

Acknowledgements/Resolution

Mildred Green, Church Clerk *(2-3 cards read, 2-3 resolutions – all other resolutions will be acknowledged only)*

Reflections & Words of Comfort

Limit: four people at 3 minutes each

Family should select individuals (relatives, friends, or members of Tabernacle Fellowship) who know the deceased well and can speak to the moment. Individuals should consider preparing written remarks.

Choral Music or Solo

Tabernacle musician needs to know what will be sung / get name of person doing solo, have person contact musician with song information.

Eulogy

Pastor Butler

Hymn of Affirmation

(print title of hymn in program)

Recessional

Benediction – Given at gravesite; exception – when burial is out of town or burial is on another day – then benediction will be given at church

**Any requests for changes in the order of service must be made by the family spokesperson and requires Pastor's prior approval. Final draft of program should be confirmed with Pastor: butlerdd@tcbchurch.com*

Reflections and/or Words of Comfort

PROTOCOL FOR THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED

Funeral service times must be arranged with the Pastor in consultation with the family and Funeral Director. Please call the pastor and bereavement care coordinator immediately upon the death of a loved one.

In planning the funeral service, we ask that the family choose a designated spokesperson that will work with the pastor and bereavement care coordinator to prepare a list of suggested hymns, Scripture readings and service theme.

All visiting musicians, organists, soloists, ministers or others involved in the funeral service must be approved by the Pastor before being invited to participate in the service. Efforts will be made to do everything possible to accommodate the family's preferences in planning the funeral service. Any special requests should be directed to the Pastor as soon as possible. The final draft of the order of worship should be reviewed with the Pastor no later than 48 hours prior to the service. Drafts may be sent electronically – butlerdd@tcbchurch.com.

Non-MEMBER

1. If a musician from Tabernacle Community Baptist Church is asked to render services – a \$75.00 stipend will be paid by the family of the deceased.
2. TCBC Sound Engineer fee is \$75.00 – paid by family of the deceased.
3. Family must request TCBC culinary coverage
4. Outside bonded/licensed caterer is permitted

FUNERAL REPAST MEAL

TCBC Member's family is offered a funeral repast meal. Please confirm with TCBC representative at least two days (48 hours) in advance of funeral so appropriate arrangements can be made to purchase food, drinks, etc. Please have an estimate of how many people are expected at the repast meal.

The use of the facilities, cleanup, preparation and serving of food for funerals are provided without charge to the family and guests of deceased TCBC members.

For non-member families there is a \$250.00 rental fee in addition to the cost for food based on the number of people attending repast meal.

SPIRITUAL MATERIALS

As a ministry to those grieving, Tabernacle Community Baptist Church may also offer pastoral counseling, reading and listening materials related to grief or special tributes and remembrances. These are chosen specifically by the Pastor and/or Bereavement Care Coordinator and provided by the congregation with our prayers.

PROTOCOL FOR ALL FUNERAL DIRECTORS

When it involves the use of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church, all funeral directors must follow the established funeral protocol of Tabernacle Community Baptist Church. Funeral directors should confirm funeral service arrangements with the pastor or his representative. It is our desire to help guide the family in making appropriate decisions that will reflect the desires and the dignity of the deceased, and are consistent with the theological commitments of our faith community.

In your time of grief and bereavement, may you find comfort in the One who knows and has the answers to all of your many questions...

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil:
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff
they comfort me.

PSALM 23:4

Please find comfort in these other scriptures as well

Psalm 116:15

John 5:24-29

1 Corinthians 15:51-58


2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Hebrews 2:14-18

Hebrews 9:27

1 John 5:11-13

Revelation 21:1-6

A full-page background image featuring a sunset scene. The sky is filled with dark, textured clouds, with a bright, glowing sun partially obscured by a large cloud mass near the horizon. The sun's light creates a shimmering reflection on the calm water in the foreground. A dark, silhouetted line of trees or a forest stretches across the horizon. Centered in the upper half of the image is a quote in white, italicized text.

*“Love is stronger than death even though it can't
stop death from happening, but no matter how
hard death tries it can't separate people from
love. It can't take away our memories either.
In the end, life is stronger than death.”
-unknown-*