

A sepia-toned photograph of a riverbank. The foreground shows a rocky shore with small stones and pebbles. The river flows from the bottom left towards the center. The background is filled with dense, bare trees, creating a misty or hazy atmosphere. The overall color palette is warm and monochromatic, ranging from light beige to dark brown.

Asbury's
Guide for Memorial Services

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At the time of death, you will need to make 2 phone calls:

1. The **Funeral Home**. There are wonderfully skilled and caring directors throughout the Tulsa area. You will want to write down the phone number of that place here:
_____ - _____
2. **Asbury**. Call **492-1771**, and let the person know who answers the phone what has happened. If you call after our core hours, then you can leave a message with Victoria Williamson @ **392-1113**. On weekends or after hours, you can reach Victoria @ 250-7878 or 284-6383. We will begin the process of helping you plan the memorial service, including contacting a Pastor.

As soon as possible, set a time for the service with both Asbury and the funeral home. Times selected are generally between 10-11 or 1-4, Mondays through Friday. Because we have so many weddings, Saturday is more difficult but is occasionally done. If you choose to have a service at the funeral home or at the graveside, then that needs to be cleared only with the funeral home and the Pastor conducting the service.

Generally the service is held about 3 days after the death. Plans need to be finalized, and out-of-town family and friends must make their plans. **Pre-planning with the funeral home is very helpful.** After establishing the service time, you will visit with the funeral home to make preparations.

You will also want to visit with the Pastor about the service. We will assist you in coordinating all details for the memorial service.

The Memorial Service

The memorial service exists for two reasons:

- (1) To honor the person who has died
- and*
- (2) To speak words of faith in Jesus Christ to the congregation.

We provide a bulletin which is a "Call to Worship" from our Methodist hymnal (page #870). This includes a greeting, the Apostles Creed, a congregational prayer, and the Lord's Prayer. This bulletin outlines the following, which we will also assist you with:

- ◆ ***Music:*** songs, hymns, and musicians (vocalists, musicians, and a sound engineer). An honorarium should be paid to these individuals. Victoria will assist you on this.
- ◆ ***Scripture:*** If you have a preference, let the Pastor know.
- ◆ ***Obituary:*** You will probably want to write one for the Tulsa World. Some of our Pastors will amplify this obituary, using your words as their guide.
- ◆ ***Eulogy:*** Some want another person to speak (a "eulogy") in addition to the Pastor. This is certainly appropriate, but also consider having something written down which the Pastor could read instead. It is generally hard for most people to deliver a eulogy for a loved one.
- ◆ ***Video Tribute:*** Some show pictures set to music while the family is seated or at the beginning of the service. 50-60 pictures are the maximum used to produce a 6 to 8 minute video. We can put this together for you with appropriate music. There is a cost for the production of this video. For videos that are produced outside of Asbury please provide a copy 48 hours in advance.
- ◆ ***Greeting:*** After the service, most families wish to visit with people who attend. We will ask your desires about how you want to do this.

Burial or Cremation?

When a burial occurs, the interment is about 1 hour before the memorial service. There are a number of reasons why we do it this way, and the Pastor or Victoria can help explain it if this seems unusual. Usually only the family and close friends attend the interment. The Pastor presides over the interment, and it lasts only a few minutes. Scripture and a committal prayer are offered. Sometimes the Pastor invites others to briefly share their thoughts about the deceased. Afterwards, we return to the church for the memorial service.

Cremation gives the family more latitude to select the time of the service. Some families have waited as long as 2 weeks to give other family members time to rearrange their schedules.

Asbury now has a "Columbarium" (a place to store the urn) next to our Chapel in an outdoor prayer garden. We have had several "committal" services in the Columbarium. Victoria can assist you with this.

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