

FUNERALS AT TRINITY UNITED GRAVENHURST



Funerals/Memorials at Trinity United Gravenhurst

Preparing for a funeral and dealing with the death of one we love is a difficult time. We experience deep feelings, and the community of faith can be an important support in the grieving process and in planning the funeral service. Traditionally all funeral planning was done through the Funeral Home, but more and more people are looking to the church for alternative options. The coordination of a funeral takes the time and talents of many. It requires someone to oversee the process and additional help for things such as streaming live or recording the service and slide shows. The attached fee schedule reflects the assistance needed to plan a funeral without the services of a funeral home. Funerals that will include the presence of a casket *must* be arranged through a licensed Funeral Home.

A funeral or memorial service is a service of worship to give thanks for the life as we grieve our loss. Drawing on our faith we are empowered by our hope of resurrection, which enables us to face death, offer thanksgiving for the gift of life and celebrate our Christian hope.

Whatever decisions you make, may you be reminded that you are not alone, and that your church family are companions for this difficult journey. May God bless you and give you the strength and courage in the days and weeks to come.

Contacting the Minister

The current minister conducts all on site funerals and should be contacted first. If Trinity's minister is unavailable, an alternate minister will be suggested. Trinity welcomes the participation of other clergy, readers, family and friends in consultation with the family. Once the funeral time has been booked (If the service is to be held at the church) then it may be turned over to the Funeral Coordinator, leaving the minister to focus on the officiating of the service and meeting with the family. **Services that will include the presence of the casket must be arranged through a licensed Funeral Home. Such funerals require the expertise of a Funeral Director who has the experience and resources to ensure all details are looked after.*

Interments Committals may be done at the end of the service or held at a later date to be arranged with the minister.

Visitation

Visitations at the church may occur up to **one hour** before the service. For additional visitation times held at Trinity, applicable fees will apply. The funeral home usually offers visitation the day of or evening before the funeral.

Music

Trinity's music director will be the first choice for organ or piano music. If for some reason they are unable to participate, an alternate will be contacted. Soloists may be available as well. Recorded music may be played as an alternative.

Video Arrangements

If requested, a video operator can be booked for the purpose of streaming the service via the video system in the sanctuary.

Custodial Arrangements

The custodian will be contacted and have the building open two hours before the service time. The custodian will make sure the heat is on ahead of time, as well as windows open or fans on, according to seasonal temperature.

Grief Counselling and Pastoral Care

The minister will normally provide pastoral care before and after the funeral service. If the family requests additional support, the minister can refer individuals to support groups and counsellors.

Bulletin/Order of Service Printing

If requested, bulletins or order of service can be arranged through the church office.

Flowers and Memorial Items

Flowers should be brought in shortly before the service (two hours) and removed following the service. The family is welcome to leave one or two arrangements for the sanctuary. Appropriate memorial items are welcomed; however, the family

must talk to the minister about placement and quantity of items while keeping dignity and decorum in mind.

Fees

Please review fee schedule for all services prior to final planning as fees are due prior to the service.