

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

510 POINSETTIA ST. SEBRING, FLORIDA 33870 PH: (813) 385-0352

Rev. Elry A. Jeffries, minister october 9, 1984



- I. The portion of the Church property enclosed by Poinsettia and South Eucalyptus Street, the walk from South Eucalyptus to the church building and the church wall from the walk to Poinsettia shall be known as THE MEMORIAL GARDEN.
- II. THE MEMORIAL GARDEN shall be available for the final resting place of the cremated remains of any member of the church, the member's spouse and children. Provisions of this paragraph may be expanded in individual cases by the Elders and their decision shall be final.
- III. Disposal of the remains may be by scattering or by interment. If by interment it must be in a container which is biodegradable. Reservation of a space is not permitted.
- IV. The only marker permitted shall be a plate attached to the wall of the church building. This plate shall be the same size, shape, color and material as those presently in use. It shall be attached to the wall so as to conform to the design which has been established. Inscription shall be restricted to the name of the deceased and dates of birth and death. The plate shall be purchased and installed by the Church and the estate or family shall be billed for the cost. The minister shall be consulted.
- V. It shall be the duty of the minister to see that the bill is not sent in any case where, in his opinion, such billing would not be appropriate.

Board OK - 1998

Committee Report on the Memorial Board

A. Historical and informational material.

1. Only reference found was from church board minutes of 8/9/88. "Jane Reihing showed the material that will be used on the Memorial Board. Black with gold will be used in the printing of each memorial plate. Getting ready to have them made and a request will go out in the Sebring Christian requesting information on memorials that may not be on file in the office. When it is finished it will be hung in the corridor by the ramp door."
2. Memorial board with name plates probably came into being between 1986-88. (D.Reihing)
3. Memorial board probably instigated by Dan and Jane Reihing who gave money to have their father's names on the board. (D.Reihing)
4. Memorial board was probably made by Clyde Brock.
5. Only requirement to have name on board was a monetary memorial gift. There were no written regulations or requirements for qualification. (D.Reihing)
6. We tried to trace the names on the memorial board in the church membership book. Many names were unverified as to church membership or attendance. Many names on the board are unknown to the present membership., No one seems to recall how the original names were selected.

B. Possible rules and regulations for memorialization.

1. Monetary memorial gift made to the church following the death of the person to be memorialized.
2. The person to be memorialized should have a definite relationship with First Christian Church displayed by church attendance or church membership.
3. Name of person to be memorialized should be placed on the board soon after memorial gift is received.
4. Consideration should be given to people who are loyal to the church as shown by their works, giving of time and money while they were able to attend, but no memorial gifts were received after their death.
5. A committee should be appointed annually to keep the memorial board current and to determine eligibility of new honorees. The Financial Secretary should be a member of this committee.

Audrey Case

Bea Vosburgh

Emma S. Davis

Robert C. Davis, Chairman

Report on all Church Memorials
March - 1999

Church Memorials

There seems to be some confusion relative to the memorial portion of the life of the church. This work is an attempt to make clarifications of these memorials.

At present there are several designations pertaining to memorials.

1. The Memorial Garden and burial plaques.
2. Memorial Board in the church vestibule.
3. Memorial monetary gifts made to the church in honor of a deceased member.

Our constitution makes little reference to the Memorial Garden and none to the Memorial Board. Some reference but insufficient descriptions are made under the section on bequests.

Memorial Gardens

At present, the Memorial Gardens is functioning admirably due to a hard working and caring chairman, John Faught. He is working without much in the way of guidelines, since there are none in the constitution. Here are some of the data established many years ago. See hand-out #1 dated 10/9/84.

Other information relative to the Memorial Garden can be found in the Memorial Garden folder in the church office files.

1. Updated burial plat dated 5/1/98 and 11/1/98.
2. Dedicated 4/22/79. The original area was selected in 1965 as the Holy Land Garden.
3. Family of David Jones provided funds for the original landscaping.
4. First interment was in 1977 (Thomas Pudlosky).
5. Office list stops in 1995 - names should be added.

Since the Memorial Garden's chairman is functioning so well, our only recommendation would be informing the office secretary of future interments, so they may be added to the list.

The old loose-leaf binder is full and the information needs to be transferred to a larger binder.

Applications for burial need to be made to the church office for the persons who expect to be interred.

Memorial Board

At present, this board has been brought up to date.

It has no connection with the Memorial Garden except that person interred in Memorial Garden would probably qualify for the Memorial Board.

The present rules seem to be satisfactory and were approved by the church board at a past meeting.

An Ad Hoc committee is presently in charge of this memorial and consists of Audrey Case, Bea Vosburgh, Emma Davis and Robert Davis, chairman.

Memorial Gifts

These are funds given the church in honor of recently deceased members or friends of the church.

We have experienced a few cases of gifts to our church in memory of friends or relatives of church members who do not attend our church.

Usually the survivors of the deceased have been asked how these funds are to be used. See Section C of Article XVI, page 20 of our constitution.

Dated - 2/9/99

Robert C Davis