

COLUMBARIUM PURPOSE AND GUIDELINES

BETHEL COLLEGE MENNONITE CHURCH

Original approval 10/2004

Deacon Commission amendments 7/28/2013

Amendments approved by Church Board 9/1/2016

Purpose:

The Bethel College Mennonite Church Columbarium is an effort by the church to provide a meaningful and more affordable choice for families when a loved one dies. The Columbarium Plaza enables families to visit the site whenever they choose.

Guidelines:

1. Full Members, Wider Fellowship Members, regular attenders, and their immediate family members (spouse and children) may be inurned in the Columbarium.
2. Each niche will contain the ashes of only one individual.
3. The rights to use a niche are personal to the grantee and may not be transferred to another person.
4. The fees per niche will be \$1,000 for Full and Wider Fellowship Members and their immediate family members and \$1,500 for regular attenders who are not members and their immediate family members, and are payable at the time of reservation. Other fees related to the cost of engraving will be due at inurnment. Fees are subject to change by the Church Board.
5. Bethel College Mennonite Church will assign the niche locations in the order of inurnment.
6. If families or couples purchase niches at the same time, niches will be reserved next to each other at the time the first person is inurned.
7. The church will provide the cylinder for the ashes.
8. The ashes will be sealed in the cylinder by the funeral home or the church. The cylinder will be placed and sealed into the niche by the church.
9. Flowers, flags, or other decorative material may not be placed on the individual niche. Small items of sentimental value such as wedding rings, etc. may be placed in the cylinder before it is sealed, and may not be extracted or added to after sealing.
10. Records of ownership and location of the niche that was purchased will be maintained by the church.
11. When ashes are located elsewhere, niches may be purchased and inscribed at the same cost and guidelines noted in this document.
12. If the owner wishes to give up his or her niche, Bethel College Mennonite Church will refund one-half of the amount paid for the actual niche.
13. The church will maintain the Columbarium. Income and expenses will be recorded in the Bethel College Mennonite Church Columbarium Fund.
14. Should it become impossible at some future time to maintain said niche, Bethel College Mennonite Church agrees to dispose of the ashes in a legal manner.
15. This policy is the responsibility of the Church Board with appropriate consultation with other groups. The Deacon Commission is responsible for the rites of inurnment and pastoral care aspects of the Columbarium. Fees are subject to change upon review by the Church Board in consultation with the Finance Committee. The Church Board is responsible for future plans and development in consultation with the Deacon Commission, the Facilities Committee, the Finance Committee and other appropriate groups. Memorial gifts for the Columbarium such as benches or landscape items must be approved by the Facilities Committee and Finance Committee.