

Garden of Memory and Hope

(For discussion, BCMC Congregational Meeting, April 23, 2017)

Purposes

1. A scatter garden for the ashes of loved ones honors their memories (“the great cloud of witnesses”), modeling ecological cycling of death and rebirth of all life on earth (“from dust to dust”), providing a choice for a simpler method than traditional casket burial.
2. A garden incorporating native flowers and grasses to attract birds and butterflies is a new outdoor laboratory for Christian faith formation, providing a natural outdoor space for education and the nurture of creation care for all, young and old.
3. A beautiful garden, offering year around seasonal interest, is a witness to the beauty and wonder of God’s creation, inviting worship, quiet meditation, reflection, and joyful delight for students, neighbors, and the many visitors to our church and campus next door.

Location/Features of the Garden

1. Area east of the curved sidewalk (from the ramp on the south to the northwest entrance). Blending with the existing columbarium and embraced by the two wings (arms) of the church, the garden will be a visible attractive feature to the entrance of the church building.
2. A walkway of bricks/pavers compatible with the stone of the columbarium, with a bench for rest and meditation. Pavers in the walkway memorialize the names of those whose ashes are scattered in the garden (with name, birth and death date).
3. Plantings will be suited to the prairie ecosystem, with relatively taller shrubs providing the background for a flow of wild flowers and grasses in gradually decreasing height, back to front, with well-delineated edges adjacent to sidewalks and borders populated by low-growing species, with spaces between plant beds where ashes can be scattered and raked into the soil.

Capital Outlay Costs (estimates from local vendors, Brad Burch and Dyck Arboretum):

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| 1. Walkway, bench, river rock, mulch, labor | \$6000. | |
| 2. Plant Materials | 900. | |
| 3. Signage | 400. | <u>Total = \$7300.</u> |

4. Sources of Funds: Memorials, Living Stones II (ramp landscaping budget remainder)

Ongoing Maintenance and Oversight

1. The routine and ongoing seasonal maintenance of the garden (weeding, trimming, mulching, watering) will be integrated into the overall plan for the maintenance of the entire church landscape.
2. Interment fees (similar to the fees for the columbarium) will be applied to the cost of engraving and placement of a memorial paver, and garden and church landscape maintenance.
3. A Garden Committee will be established for oversight and policies for the garden (e.g. fees, application procedures, persons eligible to have ashes scattered in the garden, uniform standards for memorials, oversight of hardscape – plantings, walkway, sign, etc.).