

Columbarium Expansion Task Group

Jan 6, 2021

The Church Board shall appoint a Columbarium Expansion Task Group. The Committee consists of 3-5 members. (Church Board Policy on Board Committees)

Purpose:

The columbarium is part of BCMC's Peace Garden.

"The Peace Garden is a witness to the beauty and wonder of God's creation, designed to invite joyful delight, worship, quiet meditation, and learning for the local community and campus. The garden incorporates native flowers, grasses, and shrubs to attract birds and pollinators. It provides a laboratory for Christian faith formation, a natural outdoor space to be used for education about our local ecosystems, and the nurture of creation care for all, young and old.

One of the creation care purposes of the garden and columbarium is to provide meaningful and affordable choices for families when a loved one dies, providing alternative ways of handling ashes when cremation is chosen. Nestled between the two arms (wings) of the church, the landscape integrates a columbarium where niches are provided for the preservation of ashes and spaces in the garden where ashes can be scattered and raked into the soil, modeling ecological cycling of death and rebirth of all life on earth ("from dust to dust"). Engraved plaques on the niches of the columbarium and engraved pavers on a walkway honor the memory of loved ones and the "cloud of witnesses" that surround the living body of Christ." (Peace Garden Policy, Jan 4, 2018).

The Columbarium Expansion Task Group oversees the expansion of the Peace Garden columbarium to ensure that this space fulfills its purpose.

Tasks

1. Bring a plan to the Church Board which includes:
 - a. design for second columbarium wall
 - b. proposal for a contractor (with bids)
 - c. budget and proposed funding (including Peace Garden Funds)
 - d. proposed timeline

GOAL: completion of expansion project before Nov 2021.

2. Oversee implementation of approved proposal

Resources for Committee:

- staff support from Office and Facilities Manager
- Creation Care Committee (instrumental in creating the Peace Garden)
- existing design proposal for the columbarium expansion

PEACE GARDEN MOTION – January 28, 2018 congregational meeting

The church board recommends that

- **The Congregational action of April 24, 2016 to expand the columbarium north of the church is rescinded.**
- **The church board is authorized to begin construction of the scatter garden using the Peace Garden Fund.**
- **The church board is authorized to expand the columbarium in its current location at such time as the church board may determine with funds from the Peace Garden Fund. Internal borrowing (not to exceed an amount that can be paid back from the sale of niches or agreements to scatter within 5 years) is also approved as deemed necessary.**

The Peace Garden motion carried by ballot with 120 votes: 106 yes and 14 no.