

Peace Garden Care Committee
Approved by the Church Board: January 6, 2021

The Church Board shall appoint a Peace Garden Care Committee. (Bylaw No. 2, Section C)

The Committee consists of 3-5 members. Committee terms are for two years with a maximum of two consecutive full terms. *(Church Board Policy on Board Committees)*

Purpose:

“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 Peace Garden Care Committee oversees the upkeep of the Peace Garden to ensure that this space fulfills its purpose.

Tasks

1. Create a plan, in consultation with contracted landscaper, for the upkeep of the Peace Garden (which includes planting, mulching, weeding, watering, and preparation of space to receive ashes).
2. Manage the implementation of the upkeep plan and provide guidance for contracted landscaper as needed.

Resources for Committee:

- staff support from Office and Facilities Manager
- contracted landscaper (Brad Burch)
- Creation Care Committee (instrumental in creating the Peace Garden)