

Funeral Policy

Lenox Road Baptist Church
(Adapted from Baptist Church Policy)

A Christian funeral is a service of thanksgiving – thanksgiving for the life of the person who is no longer among us, and thanksgiving for the hope we have through faith in Jesus Christ. Therefore, the funeral both remembers the deceased and proclaims our hope in Christ. A funeral is always a service of worship, so the decorum and focus of worshipping God will be central.

Scheduling a Funeral Service

- Families are urged to meet with the pastor before scheduling a date for the funeral. This is to ensure the date is suitable for church and family. **Please note, funerals are not conducted on a Saturday or Sunday**; any other day of the week Monday-Friday can be reserved. Funeral service and burial can be scheduled to commence at 10am or 12pm. Families are urged to schedule the wake with the funeral directors so more expressions of grief and memory can be accommodated. Exceptions to this policy can be granted to members of the Lenox Road Baptist Church with the approval and at the discretion of the Senior Pastor.

Who Will Officiate?

- Pastoral ethics require that the Lenox Road Baptist Church senior pastor conduct all funeral services held at LRBC, unless by agreement with another pastor from within or outside the church, he/she is invited to share in the funeral or act on behalf of the pastor of LRBC. The Pastor has sole responsibility and discretion in carrying out the church guidelines for funeral services Any requests for another pastor or

lay person to officiate or assist in the service must be approved by the Senior Pastor of LRBC.

- All funerals held in the church shall be closed casket during and at the end of the service, however the deceased may lie in state prior to the service. The family can choose to view the body of the deceased upon entry into the sanctuary for the beginning of the service. All fraternal order services shall be held at the grave site. Families can also request a wake to be done at the funeral home.
- We recognize that there are persons who attend our weekly worship services who may not formally join, but they contribute regularly to the support of the church and its ministry. The church will consider these persons to be a normal part of our congregational obligation to provide funeral services. The final decision will rest with the Senior Pastor of the church.

Funeral Services for In-Active Members

- Lenox Road Baptist Church defines an inactive member as someone who has not attended worship in twelve months nor made any financial contributions to the church in the previous six months. We recognize that there can be special circumstances why members are inactive, and these will be taken case by case.

Funeral Services for Non-Members

- Lenox Road Baptist Church does not make it a normal practice to conduct funeral services for non-members (persons who do not attend weekly worship services nor give to support the mission of the church). We do consider all cases of bereavement a normal part of our ministry obligations. The Senior Pastor will make

the final decision regarding the service. The family will be responsible for all of the fees associated with the service, to include the use of the fellowship hall if they choose to have a fellowship meal following the service. ***Funeral fees are based on the deceased's relationship with the church:***

- Most churches do not charge for the funeral service of an active member of their congregation, but it is customary to give a donation to the church to offset the cost of the organist, sexton. Funerals for non-members may be charged usage fees for the church's facilities, and for the length of time they are needed. It's also customary to pay an honorarium to cover the cost of the clergy member leading the service, the organist or other musicians, and anyone else performing during the ceremony (except for family members or close friends).

| Services | Member | Non-Member |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Pastor** | No Fee Required | \$350 (Honorarium) |
| Church | No Fee | \$500 |
| Sexton/Custodian** | \$75 | \$100 |
| Organist** | \$100 | \$150 |
| Sound Tech | \$50 | \$75 |
| Church Hall* | No Fee | \$500 |

*The **Church Hall** is available for use by members at no charge. Donations are accepted to help defer the cost of utilities, etc. Checks for payment to use the Church Hall should be written to Lenox Road Baptist Church.

Checks for the **Organist or Pastor, Custodian should be written to the name provided by the church admin (their name).

Funeral Repast

- Funerals are a chance for those who knew a deceased person to gather for collective mourning. This process helps folks connect with others who share the same grief, and to begin the healing process. After a funeral, many families will host additional memorial events. Sometimes a reception occurs, and closely linked to the reception is the funeral repast.
- The rental fee for the church hall is covered in the above-mentioned cost, In addition, families are responsible for the cost of catering. The church may assist in the cost of catering for members.
- **No alcoholic beverages will be served on the church's premises that includes - during the repast (Church Hall) or in the parking lot.**

Parking

- Although there is a limited parking facility, the church cannot guarantee parking for attendees to the funeral service. Please contact the funeral director with information on the viewing and start of service. Appropriate parking will be reserved for the hearse.
- **Additional questions can be raised during the initial meeting with the pastor.**