



## COLUMBARIUM USE AGREEMENT

THIS COLUMBARIUM USE AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_ by and between Riverchase United Methodist Church (hereinafter RUMC) and

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(hereinafter individually or jointly the "Purchaser") for the use of Columbarium niche #(s) \_\_\_\_\_ for one (or two if purchased) inurnment (collectively, the "Niche").

WHEREAS, RUMC has a Columbarium (the "Columbarium") on its property located at 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Hoover, AL 35244 to be used for inurnment of cremated human remains; and

WHEREAS, the Purchaser desires to reserve the use of said Niche(s) for the inurnment of designee(s) (the "Designee") in the Columbarium and RUMC desires to grant same, subject to the terms, provisions, and limitations of this Agreement,

NOW THEREFORE, the parties hereto, intending to be legally bound, hereby agree as follows:

- A. The Purchaser has paid to RUMC the sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for the reservation and use of the Niche (the "Use fee") which shall include all costs of opening the Niche and the associated engraving fee. The Purchaser may place cremains for one Designee in each Niche. If the Purchaser wishes to place two urns in the same niche the Purchaser must designate that on this agreement, and include payment for the second urn/inurnment. The Purchaser and the Designees are set forth in the attached "Columbarium Niche Designee Information."
- B. RUMC grants unto the Purchaser a right to use the Niche as described and located upon the ground of RUMC, pursuant to the terms and conditions of this Agreement, and pursuant to the Bylaws for Columbarium Use (the "Columbarium Bylaws") as promulgated by the Trustees of RUMC (attached hereto and incorporated hereby, and as subsequently amended by the Trustees of RUMC). The Purchaser understands that the inurnment privilege granted herein is one of use only and no ownership interest or right of tenancy in the Niche designated shall pass by operation of this Agreement. The Purchaser understands that RUMC reserves the right to move the Columbarium in its sole discretion.
- C. The Purchaser or its family member shall be solely responsible for placing the cremains of the Designee in the Niche. RUMC only shall be responsible for opening and closing the Niche.
- D. Legal title and rights to the Niche shall at all times remain with RUMC. Legal title of the cremated remains shall remain with the Purchaser and its heirs or assigns.
  1. The rights hereby granted to the Purchaser upon payment of the Use Fee are and shall for all purposes be deemed to be intangible personal property rights only and shall not be assigned or otherwise transferred by the Purchaser.
  2. If the Purchaser finds it necessary to relinquish the Niche after payment of the Use Fee and said Niche has been unused, RUMC has the right to release the Niche and RUMC will refund to the Purchaser the original Use Fee, less \$500.00 for administrative cost. If said Niche has been previously used and is vacated, the Purchaser shall not be entitled to any refund of any part of the Use Fee.

3. In the event (a) RUMC shall move the Columbarium and the Niches at its own discretion pursuant to Section B or (b) if damage, flooding, construction or reconstruction of additions, or any other reasons seen or unforeseen by RUMC any of which may require movement of the Columbarium and the Niches, used or vacant, to another location, such movement will be performed at the discretion and cost of RUMC.
- E. This Agreement shall continue until such time as cremains have been inurned or removed or rights have reverted to RUMC.
  - F. The Purchaser understands that the Columbarium is not a perpetual care cemetery, nor a permanent maintenance cemetery, nor a free care cemetery. RUMC does intend, to the best of its ability, to maintain the Columbarium in a tasteful, reverent, and dignified state befitting the sanctity of the purpose of a Columbarium within a church. RUMC does not expect or require the Purchaser or the Purchaser's family to contribute additional fees for such care and maintenance.
  - G. RUMC has taken or will take steps through the design and construction of the Columbarium to provide a reasonable level of security, balanced by the need for visits by loved ones and availability of the property for prayer and services. By reserving a Niche, the holder of the right of inurnment, and his/her heirs, beneficiaries, and legal representatives assume the risk of loss, destruction, vandalism, and desecration of cremains.
  - H. RUMC will make reasonable precautions to protect the Niche and its contents from loss or damage but will not assume any liability for causes beyond its control including, but not limited to, acts of God, vandalism, theft, accidents, riots, military actions, or strikes. Loss or damage within the reasonable control of RUMC shall be limited to no more than the amount paid for the contracted items.
  - I. Responsibilities of the Purchaser:
    1. The Purchaser or representative(s) assigned by the Purchaser of the deceased are responsible for the cremation in accordance with the applicable laws of the State of Alabama and for the costs associated therewith. Purchaser may use a funeral home or a cremation service of their choice and such costs will be the responsibility of the Purchaser.
    2. The Purchaser is responsible for acquiring or purchasing the urn(s) of the approved size and for the delivery to RUMC if Purchaser does not desire to use the urn included with the purchase of the niche.
    3. The Purchaser or assigned representative(s) are responsible for the proper identification of the cremains to be interred and shall permanently mark the name of the deceased and date of death on or attached to the urn to be interred.
    4. A committal service must be performed for all interments. Said service must be planned and performed by the minister(s) of RUMC, or by person(s) designated by the minister of RUMC, in consultation with the Purchaser, the deceased's family, or assigns.
  - J. As it sees fit, RUMC may carry insurance for its own benefit regarding the Columbarium,; however there is no obligation to carry insurance or to provide any insurance for the benefit of any holder of a right of inurnment or his/her heirs, beneficiaries, and legal representatives.
  - K. This Agreement shall be governed by the laws of the State of Alabama, without regard to its conflicts of law principles. The Purchaser understands that this Agreement shall be binding upon his/her heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns, legal representatives, and agents.

# RIVERCHASE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## Columbarium Niche Designee Information

Purchaser(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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Niche Designee \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ DOD \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary Niche Designee \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ DOD \_\_\_\_\_  
(If purchased)

Memorial Wall Designee \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ DOD \_\_\_\_\_  
(If Purchased)

Purchaser(s) Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Columbarium Board Approval \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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The Purchaser will be the first point of contact for the Columbarium Board. Please list below additional persons the Board may contact regarding the use of the Columbarium in the event the Board is unable to contact the Purchaser(s):

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #s \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**The Columbarium at Riverchase United Methodist Church**

1953 Old Montgomery Highway  
Hoover, AL 35244 (205) 987-4030

**COLUMBARIUM BYLAWS**

Riverchase United Methodist Church, hereafter referred to as "RUMC," has built a Columbarium to provide niches for the inurnment of our loved ones.

**Columbarium Board**

The Board, composed of five volunteer members of the RUMC, shall be appointed by Board of Trustees. They will issue an annual report to the Board of Trustees. Membership on the Board is open to all adults who are full members at RUMC. The board will meet as required.

**Right of Inurnment**

For the purpose of control and clear understanding, a Columbarium Use Agreement will be executed for each Columbarium niche. The Columbarium Use Agreement does not constitute a sale of property, but is merely the provision of a burial space. All ownership of the land, the Columbarium, and the Memorial Garden remains with RUMC. This instrument states the right of the parties, including specifically a provision granting full authority to RUMC to move or relocate niches with cremains should relocation of the Columbarium becomes necessary in the opinion of the Board.

The Columbarium Use Agreement will be executed for each Columbarium space on the Memorial Wall. The same understanding will apply to the Memorial Wall as does the Columbarium Use Agreement above and does not constitute a sale of property, but is merely the provision of a memorial space.

**Columbarium**

The exterior construction shall be as selected by the Board. Niche covers will be engraved at the time of inurnment. Inurnment and engraving cost will be included in the cost of the niche. Each niche cover is 9.5" wide X 9.5" high and has a capacity for two urns. The following section defines the maximum size.

**Urns**

Purchase price of a niche will include one complementary urn. (A second urn is included if purchased and designated in the Columbarium Use Agreement.) However, urns are available through other sources and the family may choose to purchase a different urn elsewhere. The size of an individual urn cannot exceed 9.5" wide X 9.5" high X 9" deep. The material used in an owner-supplied urn must be preapproved by the Columbarium board. Wood will not be allowed due to deterioration concerns.

Engraving of the urn shall be at the purchaser's expense. Once engraved, the urn can no longer be stored at RUMC.

**Operation and Duties of the Columbarium Board**

- A. The By-Laws set forth herein and future amendments thereto, as approved by the Board of Trustees shall govern the operation of The Columbarium Board. The purpose of the Columbarium board is as follows:
  - Manage the Maintenance and finance of the RUMC Columbarium including recommending any necessary renovations or additional construction.

- Participate in planning a budget each year and provide the Board of Trustees with feedback regarding the annual budget prior to budget approval in January.
  - Ensure timely delivery and installation of engraved niche covers.
- B. The Columbarium By-Laws adopted by the Board of Trustees are set forth here for the guidance of all. The Columbarium Board will decide any matter not covered by the By-Laws as they now exist, or as they may be amended in the future. The Columbarium Board shall meet at any time at the discretion of the custodian to conduct business. The presence of three or more members shall constitute a quorum. Only Board Members may vote.
- C. The Columbarium Board maintains Supervisory authority of the Columbarium. Two persons will be designated by the board as Custodian and Assistant Custodian. They shall serve without compensation.
- D. The Custodian is responsible for daily administration and maintains the following records:
- Each Purchaser to whom a Right of Inurnment is issued.
  - Each Purchaser to whom a Memorial Wall Certificate is issued as described below.
  - Each Inurnment of remains in a niche.
  - A diagram showing the individual niche the Purchaser is reserving in the Columbarium.
  - Each name engraved, dates of birth & death, and placement of engraving order.

The Assistant Custodian will assist the Custodian and fill in when the Custodian is absent.

- E. The Board shall consist of five members of RUMC. Each of the initially appointed board members shall serve either a 3-year, 2-year, or 1-year term as determined by lot. As terms end, each new member will be appointed for a 3-year term. The term will begin in January. Board members may be appointed to additional 3-year terms. The officers will consist of a Custodian and an Assistant Custodian and shall be elected by the Board members.
- The Custodian will preside over and conduct all meetings.
  - The Custodian, or a designated representative, will be the primary liaison with the Pastor and will be the primary voice of the Board and represent the board on the Board of Trustees.
  - Officers' terms of office will be three years. Members can serve as long as the Board desires them to serve.
  - The Custodian will publish an agenda for each meeting during the week prior to the meeting. She/he may request input for the agenda from Board members.
  - The Custodian will record the minutes of each meeting.
  - The Custodian will provide a copy of the minutes from the previous meeting to all Board members at least one week prior to the upcoming meeting.

The Board may from time to time request other people to attend meetings and work with the board because of their expertise in a particular area or their duties at the Church.

- F. Removal from the Columbarium Board. Board members are required to attend all meetings. A member may be asked to resign their position if any of the following occurs:
- The member is absent from two consecutive meetings.

- The member is absent from more than three meetings within one year.
- The member feels they cannot fulfill the duties of the Board.

Any action by a member of the Board which is considered to be detrimental to the best interest of RUMC or contrary to the established objectives of RUMC shall be cause for removal. The member involved in any such action shall have the opportunity to meet with the Columbarium Board in a closed session prior to removal from membership. A unanimous vote, by secret ballot with the total Columbarium Board membership present, shall be required for removal. The member under discussion shall not have voting rights.

- G. A uniform charge for the Columbarium Use Agreement shall be as determined by the Columbarium Board and shall include a niche, engraving of the niche cover, urn, inurnment and the cost of perpetual care of the Columbarium. If it is necessary to reopen the niche at a later date for inurnment of the urn, a donation is recommended to cover the cost.
- H. The Board is responsible for the management of all funds directly associated with the Columbarium. The Custodian will maintain financial records for the Columbarium including names and inurnment certificates and memorial certificates of all purchasers as well as disbursements. The Columbarium Board will review and approve the financial records with the Custodian annually.
- I. The costs of the Columbarium will be paid by fees and donations from those who purchase a Right of Inurnment. This includes the maintenance of the Columbarium and the grounds immediately adjacent to the Columbarium. Withdrawal of these funds must be approved by the Columbarium Board who shall submit a disbursement request to the RUMC Minister of Finance. No member of the board shall have the right to disburse funds.
- J. Funds will accumulate in the Columbarium's bank account. When this accumulation is over and above the amount needed for maintenance and care to the Columbarium and grounds, it may be used for capital improvements and repairs to the church at the discretion of the Columbarium Board.
- K. The Columbarium Board will provide suitable planting and landscaping in the Columbarium area. No flowers, plants, or other decoration may be placed in the niche areas. Monetary donations for Memorial flowers may be given to the church on any designated Sunday.
- L. Special cases may arise in which the literal enforcement of these By-Laws or fees may impose unnecessary hardship. The Columbarium Board shall retain the right, without notice, to grant exceptions to any of these By-Laws or fees, when in the judgment of the Columbarium Board, such action appears advisable. Such exceptions shall in no way be construed as affecting the general application of these By-Laws and shall not constitute a waiver of any of them.

### **Rules of Inurnment**

- A. The reservation of a niche and the payment of the fee give to the purchaser the right to name the designee to be inurned subject to revocation as described below. RUMC only provides the niches, urns, engraving of the granite niche cover and inurnment, and is not responsible for engraving or etching of the urn or for any other costs for funeral expenses of whatever nature. RUMC will open and seal a niche for inurnment but for no other purpose.
- B. A representative of the designee may then apply at any time for authorization for the inurnment of a single urn containing the cremated remains of that designee upon the approval of the Columbarium Board. A separate authorization shall be required for each inurnment. A separate Columbarium Use Agreement is required for each niche. If Purchaser purchases an additional urn for placement in the same niche it shall be indicated on the original Columbarium Use Agreement. In no case shall more than two cremains be placed in a single niche.

- C. Inscriptions: Engraving shall be of a uniform size, font, and composition prescribed by the Columbarium Board. The Purchaser or representative(s) or assigns of the Purchaser or the deceased is/are responsible for providing RUMC with the legal names and dates for birth and death of the deceased. Each niche will be inscribed only with the name of the deceased, date of birth, and date of death. No other inscriptions or designations will be permitted.
- D. No transfer of a Right of Inurnment Certificate for a columbarium niche may be made to another person, estate, or corporation. However, RUMC may repurchase a niche for just cause as determined by the Board. The repurchase price will be the original price less an administration fee which will be deducted from the refund. Once an inurnment is complete, no refund will be made.
- E. All arrangements for inurnment will be under the direction of the Pastor of RUMC. The service will be as prescribed by the Pastor in consultation with the family and in accordance with Methodist Doctrine. Exceptions must receive prior approval of the Pastor. Neither RUMC nor the Pastor shall be responsible for the Rights of Inurnment or for the identity of the remains which are to be inurned.
- F. The urn may be sent with the body to the crematory for emplacement of the ashes. A funeral home or the family can make these arrangements. The urn cap is permanently placed once the ashes are enclosed. The urn is then placed by RUMC in the reserved niche after the service.
- G. The purchaser assumes the obligation to have the remains cremated and otherwise prepared in accord with the applicable laws of the State of Alabama, and for any engraving or etching of the urn.
- H. Removal of an urn will be permitted only upon presentation of the appropriate legal documents and payment of an administration fee determined by the Board, plus the cost of either replacing the granite panel or whatever is necessary to return the niche to its original state.
- I. Only the cremation of human remains are allowed to be inurned in the Columbarium.
- J. If a niche remains unused more than five years after the death of the designee, the niche will revert to the church without reimbursement. Reasonable effort will be made by the church to reach family members before the niche reverts to RUMC.
- K. Persons eligible to be inurned in the Columbarium include members of RUMC and their family members, former members and their family members, and others with prior approval of the Columbarium Board. Note, family members need not be Methodist to be inurned. However, for good cause, the Board may revoke the rights of a purchaser or designee by refunding the purchase price less an administrative fee as described herein.

### **Memorial Wall Rules**

The reservation of a Memorial Wall Designee and the payment of the fee give the individual the right to have a name, DOB and DOD placed on the wall. RUMC provides only the engraving and installation. Use of the Memorial Wall or Niches is mutually exclusive. Purchaser may purchase one or the other for a Designee —not both— unless approved by the Columbarium Board.

## Responsibilities of RUMC

- A. RUMC shall maintain the Columbarium in good condition, care for all niches, take reasonable precautions against defacement or defilement of the niches, memorial wall and the engraving thereon. Maintain and preserve all records pertaining to the Columbarium. To foregoing obligations, all maintenance expense will be funded from fees received for each space, as well as gifts and memorials designated for this purpose.
- B. If sufficient funds and need exist, the Board shall have the right to physically expand the Columbarium and Memorial Gardens in compliance with applicable local ordinances.
- C. In the event that RUMC or the Columbarium shall be relocated or ceases to operate or in the event of destruction of the Columbarium resulting from an act of God, RUMC shall cause the re-inurnment of the ashes with the relocated facility or the precinct of another Christian Church. If such is not available, the Board shall cause the ashes to be disposed of in accordance with Methodist doctrine and legal manner.
- D. Termination of the Columbarium: The right of inurnment shall continue so long as the property at 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Hoover, AL 35244 is occupied by Riverchase United Methodist Church, or any other local congregation of the United Methodist Church, which is subject to *The Book of Discipline of the United Methodist Church*, and which is governed by the General Conference of said United Methodist Church, and by the North Alabama Conference of the United Methodist Church, or any of their legal successors or assigns. If the property at 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Hoover, AL 35244 is sold, transferred, or assigned, and a replacement Columbarium will not be furnished at a new church premises or other site, the right of inurnment at 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Hoover, AL 35244 will cease. In that event, the Columbarium Board will use reasonable efforts to notify the owner, his or her heirs, beneficiaries, or legal representatives, at the address contained in the Columbarium Board files, that RUMC is ceasing to exist and that the cremains must be removed from the niche. If arrangements for the removal of cremains are not made within a reasonable period (not to exceed 3 months), or if a proper representative cannot be contacted within a reasonable time (not to exceed 3 months), RUMC will be authorized to take possession of and title to the cremains, and relocate the cremains to such location as RUMC deems reasonable or appropriate, or to disburse the cremains on the 1953 Old Montgomery Highway, Hoover, AL 35244 property in a fitting service, as it deems proper. No refunds of any amounts paid for the purchase of inurnment rights shall be made in the instance of the termination of the Columbarium. Placement of a suitable sign on RUMC's campus adjacent to Old Montgomery Highway for 90 days noting the closure of the Columbarium shall be deemed adequate notice to all parties.

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **What Is a Memorial Wall?**

A Memorial Wall, a focal point of the internal part of the Columbarium, is a granite wall where the names of deceased loved ones may be inscribed. We can include the names of those family members or friends who may be interred elsewhere. The cost of the name on a section of the wall is as described on the "Columbarium Pricing" page attached. When we sell out the Memorial Wall, we will consider incorporating plans for another wall in future expansion.

### **Will there be a niche or two set aside for unexpected inurnments?**

There are no plans to set aside niches for future sale in the event of a sudden, tragic loss of a loved one. Much like planning for a traditional funeral and interment into the ground, we encourage everyone to plan ahead for the inevitable. Our long-term plan is to accommodate as many niches as determined practical by the Board.

### **May a purchaser sell or transfer a niche?**

No.

### **What about care and permanency?**

The Columbarium will be perpetually managed by our church's Columbarium Board designated with that responsibility. A Columbarium Board was formed before the Columbarium was built and has representation on RUMC's Trustee Board. It reports directly to RUMC's Trustee Board. At present, the Columbarium Board oversees the niche sales. Columbarium's finances and information is periodically reported to RUMC's Trustee Board.

In the event that RUMC or the Columbarium shall be relocated or ceases to operate or in the event of destruction of the Columbarium resulting from an act of God, RUMC shall cause the re-inurnment of the ashes with the relocated facility or the precinct of another Christian Church. If such is not available, the Board shall cause the ashes to be disposed of in accordance with Methodist doctrine and legal manner.

### **How do I reserve a space?**

Fill out the Columbarium Use Agreement form and attach your check, payable to RUMC, for the appropriate amount. The form is available on the RUMC website as a PDF file or at the main office. Please note on your check that it is for the RUMC Columbarium Niche.

### **Can I put more than one urn in my niche?**

Yes. The niches are designed to hold a maximum of two urns. If you purchase two at the time you execute the "Columbarium Use Agreement" then a second urn and a second engraving will be included. Under no circumstance will more than two cremains be allowed in a single niche.

### **Where can I buy an urn and how much do they cost?**

Urn, other than the complementary urns included with the purchased niche, may be purchased online or at your local funeral home. There are several companies that offer a wide selection of urns. The cost from a traditional funeral home may be considerably higher. Keep in mind there are space limitations inside the niches. The size of an individual urn cannot exceed 9.5" wide X 9.5" high X 9" deep.

**May the urn be engraved?**

Yes, but engraving must be completed before the inurnment. Once the urn is placed in the niche, it cannot be removed without additional cost to the purchaser. Also, once the RUMC-provided urn is taken by the purchaser for any reason, such as engraving it, RUMC is no longer responsible for the urn. RUMC does not store or restore urns after the purchaser has taken possession of the urn.

**Do I need permission to be cremated?**

No, but it is a good idea to discuss your reasons with your pastor, deacon, or other minister. Don't forget to address your wish to be cremated with your family. Put your directive in the form of a legal document such as a will, living trust, or pre-needs planning document with your funeral director.

**When should cremation take place?**

In the American culture, cremation often takes place soon after death. Please consult with RUMC pastoral staff if you have any questions about timing.

**Is it necessary to embalm?**

When cremation follows the funeral liturgy, embalming is usually necessary. When cremation follows soon after death, embalming is not necessary. Each state has its own regulations in this matter, but generally the rule is that a deceased human body that is not buried or cremated within 24-48 hours is to be embalmed or refrigerated. However, simple embalming and the use of a cremation casket need not involve excessive costs.

**Is it necessary to purchase a casket for cremation?**

No. The only thing required is a simple container in which the body can be transported and placed in the cremation chamber. If you choose to have the body present for a funeral service, with cremation to follow, rental is an option. Many funeral directors offer regular caskets for rent, as well as the special cremation or shell casket you may purchase.

**How are cremated remains transported?**

It is a matter of personal choice. Individuals personally carrying a deceased person's ashes will often have the added responsibility of packing and transporting the urn. You may wrap the container of cremated remains with the possibility of sending it as accompanying baggage or take it along as carry-on luggage. Some states regulate the transport of cremated remains. Ask the airline office or your state's Department of Public Health for specific instructions before preparing the cremated remains for transport by air. Where no legal regulations exist regarding transport of cremated remains, they are usually sent in a standard shipping container by US Mail, UPS, or another common carrier.

**May I scatter the ashes?**

Yes. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or a friend of the deceased are OK with RUMC. However RUMC does not preserve any space on campus for the scattering of ashes. The scattering of ashes does not require a Columbarium niche or approval by the Columbarium Board. Scattering of ashes on RUMC campus is at the sole discretion of the family and RUMC pastoral staff.

**May I bury the ashes at sea?**

Yes. Burial at sea of cremated remains differs from scattering. An appropriate and worthy container, heavy enough to be sent to its final resting place, may be dropped into the sea. The burial of cremated remains at sea in this manner seems to be an appropriate alternative to the long-standing and revered custom of a traditional burial at sea. Please consult your local government for environmental regulations.

**May anything be added to the cremated remains, such as the cremated remains of other persons, pets, or objects?**

The principle of respect for the cremated remains of a deceased Christian embraces the deeper belief in the individuality of each baptized person before God. Throughout history, the mingling of remains has never been an accepted practice, except in extraordinary circumstances.

**Who decides if I am cremated?**

In most cases you make the decision to be cremated. However, your survivors may decide to have you cremated, generally due to special family circumstances, but rarely against your will.

**How do I make my wishes known?**

If you desire that your body be cremated, you can make those wishes known in your will and in documents designed to help you plan and prepare for your funeral.

**Do I have to honor my parent's or spouse's wishes to cremate them?**

Out of respect for loved ones, you will want to do all you can to carry out the wishes of the deceased concerning funeral services provided they are in keeping with RUMC's practice. Yet, you must always keep in mind the therapeutic value of the family of celebrating the full funeral liturgy with the body present. This may significantly outweigh your reasons for cremation before the funeral liturgy.

**What funeral rites are celebrated when a person is cremated?**

All the usual rites that are celebrated with a body present may also be celebrated in the presence of cremated remains. During the liturgies, the cremated remains are treated with the same dignity and respect as the body.

**What length of time is there between death, cremation, and the funeral?**

The answer to this depends on various factors. The place of death, the location of the crematory, scheduling a time for cremation, the schedule at the church, and other circumstances impact the timing. Once all arrangements have been made, you should generally allow at least one day between death and the funeral.

*Note: if the urn is being engraved, this item MUST be completed before the inurnment date is finalized.*

**What happens at the funeral with cremated remains?**

Significant attention should be given to the primary symbols of the Methodist liturgy. Funeral arrangements must be reviewed and finalized with the Pastor who will officiate. During the funeral, the cremated remains should be treated with the same dignity and respect as the body. They are to be sealed in a "worthy vessel." They may be carried in procession and/or placed on a table where the coffin would normally be. The body is always laid to rest with solemnity and dignity.



## **COLUMBARIUM PRICING**

Effective: -----

### **Cost:**

\$3,000.00 for a niche and one entombment.

\$250.00 for a second urn to be placed in the same niche (two maximum)

Includes an urn and an engraved plaque. It does not include the price of cremation.

\$ 800.00 for an engraving on the Memorial Wall (Name/DOB/DOD)

### **Purchase Procedure:**

1. Contact the Columbarium Board or Church Administrator.
2. Choose a Niche.
3. Pay for the Niche.
  - Full payment is required at the time of purchase
  - Checks should be payable to Riverchase UMC
4. Confirmation from RUMC includes:
  - A Columbarium Use Agreement
  - A copy of the Columbarium Bylaws
  - A copy of your payment