

FUNERAL POLICY

Funerals are a sensitive and difficult time for the families involved. As a church we want to show compassion and concern for those who have lost a loved one. Whether it is a close or distant relative, there is always a sense of loss and separation.

At the same time, due to the size of our church, we realize that there are limits that have to be placed on the use of our facility and the energies of our people. After much thought and prayer, the pastoral staff and deacons drew up the following guidelines for funerals and funeral dinners. We realize that no policy is perfect and that from time to time it may cause a misunderstanding. We hope that publishing these guidelines will at least help families to know the policy prior to the stressful time that inevitably surrounds a death.

FUNERALS: Funerals may be conducted in our church building only when the deceased person has been a member or regular attendee of our church. We would consider an exception only in the following circumstances:

1. If the funeral of a fellow believer from another church is anticipated to be larger than their facility will accommodate, we will consider allowing the family to use our building. The deceased person must have been a member or regular attendee of his or her church, and the church must have the same doctrinal stand as our church. The pastoral staff must approve each request.

2. If longtime members of First Baptist Church retire and move to another part of the state or country, and they desire, upon their death, to have their funeral back at First Baptist Church, we will consider the request. The pastor or pastors conducting the funeral, if not a current pastor of FBC, must be in agreement with the doctrinal stand of our church. The pastoral staff must approve each request.

FUNERAL LUNCHEONS: Funeral luncheons will be provided by the church following the funeral if the deceased person was a member or regular attendee of our church or if the deceased person was the spouse of a member or regular attendee. The church will be responsible for providing food, and adequate number of workers, and the set up and take down of the tables and chairs.