

# *Resurrection Episcopal Church Policy regarding its Memorial Garden (Gloria Dei Memorial Garden) in accordance to the Canons of Episcopal Diocese of Southwest Florida*

***As Adopted by the Bishop's Committee at its October 2017 meeting***

Rationale:

## Memorial Garden Policy:

It is the policy of Resurrection Episcopal Church that to be buried in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden of Resurrection Episcopal Church in Largo, Florida:

- 1) The ashes of members of the church may be buried in the Garden without charge.
- 2) Non-members of the church are charged a fee of \$500, payable at the time of the reservation, to "Resurrection Episcopal Church" for one (1) interment in the Garden and its perpetual maintenance. No reservations will be accepted without accompanying payment by check or cash for which there will be issued a receipt.
- 3) There will be one interment per space with each space being approximately half of a square foot in size.
- 4) Ashes of the deceased will be interred directly into the ground and not scattered.
- 5) A name plate containing name and dates of birth and death will be affixed to the plaque or on the wall near the space where the deceased is interred.
- 6) There will be no markers or flowers (cut, potted, or artificial) placed in the Garden.
- 7) Resurrection Episcopal Church will assume perpetual maintenance of the Garden, including grass, shrubs, trees, and plants.

- 8) Signatories of the Agreement to have ashes interred in the Garden have no property rights in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden. The fee is not for purchase of space, but for interment and maintenance.
- 9) The place of interment in the Garden will be chosen by the Vicar and/or the Vicar's appointed church representative.
- 10) The remains of the deceased are buried in the Garden and non-recoverable once buried.
- 11) Resurrection Episcopal Church and its related organizations, if any, are released from any responsibility for attempting to locate or remove the remains in the future.
- 12) Funds that have been given for interment, or on behalf of the deceased towards the development and/or upkeep of the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden, or for the commemoration of the deceased in a divine service of the church, are non-refundable.
- 13) No other objects will be placed with the ashes at the time of or after burial.
- 14) Interested parties may request a space for interment nearby by completing another copy of this form and paying the same interment fee.
- 15) The Vicar of Resurrection Episcopal Church or his/her designated church representative shall officiate at the committal of ashes in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden.
- 16) The interment of ashes will take place with the appropriate Burial Service found in *The Book of Common Prayer* as currently authorized by the Episcopal Church.
- 17) The Vicar or his/her designated official shall place the ashes of the deceased in the designated interment space in the Memorial Garden.
- 18) The church shall record and maintain a permanent record of the deceased and place of interment.
- 19) Resurrection Episcopal Church has the right to change, modify, amend or repeal these regulations and guidelines, including the cost of interment for any future applicants, as deemed necessary at any time.

Below is the canon that this draft policy addresses:

## CANON XIV

Section 7. a. Congregations that maintain a columbarium, cemetery or memorial garden shall establish written policies regarding remains interred or maintained on the Congregation's property. These policies must be given, in writing, to all people at the time they arrange for the use of the Congregation's columbarium, cemetery or memorial garden. At a minimum, the policy must address the following:

1. In the case of a columbarium, the policy shall state the Congregation's expectations regarding refunds should the remains be removed by a representative of the deceased or if the Congregation ceases to maintain the columbarium and intends to return the remains to a representative of the deceased.
2. In the case of a memorial garden, the policy shall state that cremated remains placed in the ground in a memorial garden, whether or not the remains are placed in a container, are presumed to be unrecoverable in the future. The policy shall require people, at the time they arrange for the use of a memorial garden, to acknowledge, in writing, the non-recoverability of the remains, and to release the Congregation from any responsibility for attempting to locate or remove the remains in the future.

b. If a Congregation intends to cease maintaining a columbarium, cemetery or memorial garden, it shall immediately notify the Bishop.

# Gloria Dei Memorial Garden Interment Agreement for Resurrection Episcopal Church Members

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish for the remains of

\_\_\_\_\_, who was born on \_\_\_\_\_,  
*First Middle Last Month/Day/Year*

and who died on \_\_\_\_\_ to be interred in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden of Resurrection Episcopal Church in Largo, Florida. I agree and affirm by signing below that:

1. Because the deceased was a member of Resurrection Episcopal Church there is no cost for interment in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden.
2. There will be one interment per space with each space being approximately half of a square foot in size.
3. Ashes of the deceased will be interred directly into the ground and not scattered.
4. A name plate containing name and dates of birth and death will be affixed to the plaque or on the wall near the space where the deceased is interred.
5. There will be no markers or flowers (cut, potted, or artificial) placed in the Garden.
6. Resurrection Episcopal Church will assume perpetual maintenance of the Garden, including grass, shrubs, trees, and plants.
7. Signatories of this Agreement have no property rights in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden.
8. The place of interment in the Garden will be chosen by the Vicar and/or the Vicar's appointed church representative.

9. The remains of the deceased are buried in the Garden and non-recoverable once buried.
10. Resurrection Episcopal Church and its related organizations, if any, are released from any responsibility for attempting to locate or remove the remains in the future.
11. Funds that have been given for interment, or on behalf of the deceased towards the development and/or upkeep of the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden, or for the commemoration of the deceased in a divine service of the church, are non-refundable.
12. No other objects will be placed with the ashes at the time of or after interment.
13. Interested parties who are members may request a space for interment nearby by completing another copy of this form. Interested parties who are non-members may request a space for interment nearby and pay the interment fee charged to members of the public.
14. The Vicar of Resurrection Episcopal Church or his/her designated church representative shall officiate at the committal of ashes in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden.
15. The interment of ashes will take place with the appropriate Burial Service found in *The Book of Common Prayer* as currently authorized by the Episcopal Church.
16. The Vicar or his/her designated official shall place the ashes of the deceased in the designated interment space in the Memorial Garden.
17. The church shall record and maintain a permanent record of the deceased and place of interment.
18. Resurrection Episcopal Church has the right to change, modify, amend or repeal these regulations and guidelines, including the cost if any of interment for future applications, as deemed necessary at any time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

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# Gloria Dei Memorial Garden

## Interment Agreement

I, \_\_\_\_\_, wish for the remains of

\_\_\_\_\_, who was born on \_\_\_\_\_,  
*First Middle Last Month/Day/Year*

and who died on \_\_\_\_\_ to be interred in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden of Resurrection Episcopal Church in Largo, Florida. I agree and affirm by signing below that:

1. The entire cost of \$500 is payable at the time of reservation to “Resurrection Episcopal Church” for one (1) interment in the Garden. No reservations will be accepted without accompanying payment by check or cash.
2. There will be one interment per space with each space being approximately half of a square foot in size.
3. Ashes of the deceased will be interred directly into the ground and not scattered.
4. A name plate containing name and dates of birth and death will be affixed to the plaque or on the wall near the space where the deceased is interred.
5. There will be no markers or flowers (cut, potted, or artificial) placed in the Garden.
6. Resurrection Episcopal Church will assume perpetual maintenance of the Garden, including grass, shrubs, trees, and plants.
7. Signatories of this Agreement have no property rights in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden. The fee is not for purchase of space, but for interment and maintenance.
8. The place of interment in the Garden will be chosen by the Vicar and/or the Vicar’s appointed church representative.
9. The remains of the deceased are buried in the Garden and non-recoverable once buried.

10. Resurrection Episcopal Church and its related organizations, if any, are released from any responsibility for attempting to locate or remove the remains in the future.
11. Funds that have been given for interment, or on behalf of the deceased towards the development and/or upkeep of the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden, or for the commemoration of the deceased in a divine service of the church, are non-refundable.
12. No other objects will be placed with the ashes at the time of or after burial.
13. Interested parties may request a space for interment nearby by completing another copy of this form and paying the same interment fee.
14. The Vicar of Resurrection Episcopal Church or his/her designated church representative shall officiate at the committal of ashes in the Gloria Dei Memorial Garden.
15. The interment of ashes will take place with the appropriate Burial Service found in *The Book of Common Prayer* as currently authorized by the Episcopal Church.
16. The Vicar or his/her designated official shall place the ashes of the deceased in the designated interment space in the Memorial Garden.
17. The church shall record and maintain a permanent record of the deceased and place of interment.
18. Resurrection Episcopal Church has the right to change, modify, amend or repeal these regulations and guidelines, including the cost of interment considered with future applications, as deemed necessary at any time.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Relation to deceased \_\_\_\_\_

Contact information:

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