



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Episcopal Church

GRAVEYARD

Rules & Regulations

July, 2016

GUIDELINES FOR CHURCHYARD COMMITTEE

Introduction: Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church, the second oldest church in the United States, and its surrounding churchyard were established in 1677 and has been a continuously active place of worship and burial respectively since that time.

Burial in Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Churchyard as with all church graveyards means that the right to bury is conferred not the land itself.

Who Can Be Buried At Gloria Dei?

Burial in Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Churchyard is restricted to individuals (and their immediate families) who are identified as being “affiliated” with Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church either as a past member in good standing, a current member in good standing or someone who has contributed in a significant way to Gloria Dei.

Objectives of the Churchyard Committee:

To study previous burial practices at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church, as well as other historic churchyards and prepare recommendations to enhance and maintain the appearance of the churchyard and the integrity of its history.

Because of Gloria Dei (Old Swedes’) Church’s historical significance and our desire to maintain its original ambience so that it can be enjoyed by future generations, we reserve the right to set standards for the churchyard consistent with what we believe will achieve those goals.

Pursuant to Church policy and for historic considerations, there shall be no disinterment permitted without a court order.

TYPES OF BURIALS

Full casket burials are restricted to individuals with whom Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church has a prior to 2014 contractual agreement. At this time there can be no accommodation for future casket burials.

Individual burial plots for cremated remains are available - see "Who Can Be Buried at Gloria Dei?" on previous page.

Common burial for cremated remains can be purchased by anyone, but is restricted to the Memorial Garden. Containers must be biodegradable both inside and outside. No plastic liners are allowed.

COSTS OF CREMATION BURIALS

Memorial Garden; individual cremation burial	\$500.00
preparation of site	\$300.00
Individual Cremation Plot	\$800.00
preparation of site	\$300.00

Up to six (6) cremated remains may be buried in one Individual Cremation Plot, at the cost of \$800.00 each and as appropriately allowed by original purchaser.

Reopening to accommodate additional cremated remains will be at the cost of \$300.00 per opening.

Checks for burial sites should be made payable to: Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church. A "right to burial" certificate will be issued to the purchaser.

MEMORIAL GARDEN REGULATIONS

Common burial for cremated remains is provided in our Memorial Garden. These burials are not restricted to persons affiliated with the church and can be purchased by anyone with the understanding that this site is common and will eventually be reused. For burial in the Memorial Garden, cremated remains can be emptied directly into the soil or must be placed in a biodegradable container. The ashes may not be placed in plastic either inside or outside of the biodegradable container. No individual markers or personal flowers may be put on this site. The deceased's name will be recorded on an engraved plaque on the wall inside the church. The Church Sexton will prepare the burial site at an additional cost in place at the time of burial. This cost is not included in the price of burial.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Gloria Dei Church will not be liable for the interment permit nor the identity of the person to be interred.

Gloria Dei Church is hereby empowered to enforce all Rules and Regulations contained herein, and to exclude from the Graveyard any person violating same. Gloria Dei Church further reserves the right to adopt additional rules and regulations, or to amend, alter, or repeal any rule, regulation, or part thereof at any time.

Flowers only (either annuals or perennials) may be planted at the base of a monument with the following stipulations:

- 1) The flowerbed may be no wider than the width of the monument base and must come out from the monument base no more than six (6) inches.
- 2) No shrubs, trees, or bushes may be planted in the planting bed.
- 3) No other ornaments, such as plastic decorations, pinwheels, flags (other than national flags or military service flags), animal figurines, etc. may be placed in the planting bed.
- 4) No bed covering, such as mulch or stones, etc. may be added to the planting bed.

- 5) No border material, such as brick, wood, plastic or fencing will be allowed.

If plantings and planting beds are not maintained, or if inappropriate materials appear in the bed, we reserve the right to remove any dead plants or inappropriate materials.

On occasion, the graveyard maintenance staff may remove plantings to accommodate a burial or other activity. Graveyard staff will not replace plantings.

If plants are unattended and become unsightly, the graveyard staff may remove them in order to maintain the overall appearance of the graveyard .

Cut Flowers are allowed at any time. Flowers and similar decoration should be placed in an *approved* container. Glass ornaments, vases, jars, etc. are prohibited and should not be used to decorate any gravesite. ***Please stop at Church Office for an appropriate container.***

Potted Plants - Potted plants may be placed on Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, the 4th of July, and Labor Day. These pots will be removed about a week after the holiday to avoid creating bare spots on grass.

Winter Wreaths, Grave Blankets- From December 15-February 15, winter wreaths or grave blankets may be placed and can be left until February 15. Any winter wreath or grave blanket remaining after February 15 will be removed.

Dogs are required to be on leashes at all times.



REUSE OF OLD GRAVES

Sites with no Monument or Marker may be probed to 4 – 5 feet in depth, if no obvious obstruction, may be used for new interments. At time of burial, any remains encountered will be recovered and re-interred at Church expense.

MARKERS (Except Memorial Garden)

- a. *Markers should be chosen in keeping with the historic nature of the Churchyard.* Markers must be gray or white like granite and marble. No other colors are acceptable. Markers which feature photographs, holographs, or holders for photographs also fall into the non-acceptable category. *All markers and monuments must be approved by the Vestry before placement.*
All single cremation sites must have a marker flush with the ground.
- b. Foundations are required for *all* markers and monuments.
- c. Only one grave-mark shall be placed at any grave site.
- d. All foundations must be built by and in accordance with the specifications listed below at the expense of the right of burial document holder.
- e. A copy of orders for foundations must be received by the Parish Secretary one (1) month in advance of erection work. No order for the construction of a foundation may be acted on until specifications and certification of payment for same have been received by the Church.

For Full Burial Marker

Foundation: Concrete or granite; minimum of 6” thickness; installed flush with ground centered on graves it is serving; maximum width 6” less than width of grave(s) it is serving x 2’6” ; Base: Granite/marble pitched on all four sides; must adhere to "border" regulations (ie: minimum 3” on all exposed sides); Monument: Must conform to size of grave(s) and cannot be larger than base ; minimum size 1’0” x 3” x 1’0”; centered at the head of the grave or graves it is to serve .

For Cremation Marker

Foundation: Concrete; minimum of 6" thickness; installed marker thickness below ground centered on graves it is serving.

Marker: needs to be flush with the surface and a maximum of 1.5' square.



CLERGY

The Rev. D. Joy Segal, Rector

The Rev. Paul Harris, Assoc. Clergy

STAFF

Paul Fejko, Music Director

Christine McBride, Parish Admin.

Paula & James Minacci, Sextons

Mark Roberts, Treasurer

VESTRY

Peggy Buescher

Jill Duink, Accounting Warden

Re Henning

Carol Jenkins, Rector's Warden

Leigh Jenkins, Secretary

Jamie Konowal

Michael Phillips

Mark Roberts

James Ufheil

Nils van Ammers

Rita West

Jeanette Woehr

STANDING NOTICES

Weddings

Weddings at Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church must be scheduled with the clergy at least three months in advance. All weddings in the church will be governed by the Canons of the Diocese of Pennsylvania and the Book of Common Prayer. Pre-marital counseling is a prerequisite. No weddings will be conducted during Lent.

Funerals

When death occurs a family member is asked to contact the clergy so that timely arrangements for a funeral may be made. It is appropriate for the funeral of a Christian to take place in the church. It is also appropriate that funeral arrangements be made in advance and kept in a file in the church office. Burial plots are available for members of the parish in the church's cemetery. Consult the church office for costs and details.

Baptisms

The sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated during one of the principle Sunday liturgies and is governed by the Canons of the church and the Book of Common Prayer. Baptism is normally celebrated on one of the four appropriate feast days designated in the Book of Common Prayer. These are: The Baptism of Our Lord (1/10/16); The Great Vigil of Easter (3/27/16); Pentecost (5/15/16); and All Saints Sunday (11/6/16). Other Sundays may be chosen, if necessary, with the advise of the clergy. Baptism instruction will be provided for parents and godparents beforehand.



Sunday Service:

10:00 AM

Tuesday Evensong 6:30 PM

Office Hours

Tuesday-Thursday 9:30-2:30