

UNITY UNITED CHURCH

THE CIRCLE OF LIFE:

BAPTISM, MARRIAGE, AND FUNERAL

POLICIES

"In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us." — A New Creed, United Church of Canada

FUNERALS AT UNITY UNITED CHURCH

Thank you for considering a funeral, memorial service, or celebration of life at Unity United Church. In the United Church of Canada, funerals, memorial services, and Celebrations of Life are acts of Christian worship. They provide a time for family, friends, and the wider community to gather in the presence of God to give thanks for a life lived and to seek comfort and hope.

Through prayer, scripture, reflection, music, and remembrance, a funeral service affirms God's promise to be with us always. At Unity United Church, funerals are a time to honour the life of the person who has died, to acknowledge grief, and to support one another in love.

The United Church of Canada understands funerals as part of the church's pastoral ministry. While grief is deeply personal, it is not meant to be carried alone. The community of faith gathers to walk with those who mourn.

A funeral, memorial service, or Celebration of Life is not just about one service. It is part of the church's ongoing care for individuals and families during a time of loss.

Preparing for a Funeral

When a death occurs and a funeral or memorial service is requested at Unity United Church, the minister will walk alongside the family through a time of planning and preparation. This helps ensure that the service reflects the life of the deceased and the faith of the church.

Those arranging a funeral can expect to meet with the minister to:

- Talk about the meaning of a funeral or memorial service in the United Church of Canada,
- Plan the service together, and
- Discuss pastoral care and support.

Music is an important part of worship and can be arranged with Unity United Church's Music Director, in consultation with the minister.

These conversations are an opportunity to share stories, ask questions, and shape a service that is respectful and meaningful.

Life in the Congregation

Funerals are part of the shared life of Unity United Church. Members, adherents, and their families are supported by the prayers and presence of the congregation.

Whenever possible, funeral services are planned so that the congregation can participate in worship and care, reflecting the belief that faith is lived in community.

When Funerals Take Place

Funeral and memorial services may be held in the church building, at a funeral home, at a cemetery, or at another suitable location, in consultation with the minister. Services may take place at any time of the year, subject to availability.

A Ministry of Care

A funeral service marks an important moment, but it is not the end of the church's care. Unity United Church seeks to be a compassionate presence as individuals and families continue their journey through grief.
