

Historic Liberty Hill African Methodist Episcopal Church

LibertyHillAMEChurch.org

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BURIAL AND USE OF CEMETARY POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Bible, common decency, and respect for our loved ones and our fellow man, lead us to conclude that it is a "sacred duty" to respect and maintain the burial place of those that have gone on before us.

"If only you would hide me in the grave...and then remember me." Job 14:13

PART I. BURIAL

1. Persons who are not members of Historic Liberty Hill AME Church who wish (or their families wish them) to be buried in the Liberty Hill Church Cemetery will be charged a fee to be buried in the Liberty Hill Cemetery or be memorialized on the property.
2. The fees are as follows:
 - a. Burial Site Only \$1,500
 - b. Burial Site and use of Sanctuary \$2,000
 - c. Burial Site, use of Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall \$2,500
 - d. Memorial Service Only \$750

The fees listed apply to all non-members or inactive members who are buried in the designated area for non-members, unless their family wishes to pay an extra fee of \$1,000 to be buried along side loved ones.

3. Historic Liberty Hill encourages tithing among its members. However, a person is considered *in good and regular standing* if contributions are at least \$750 within a 12-month period. Any exceptions to this definition are determined by the burial committee.
4. Class Leader Reports will be used to vouch for members. If there is a hardship case, Class Leaders should be able to verify the hardship condition.
5. Liberty Hill's elderly members who have been admitted to a nursing home or other health care facility, or who are ill or disabled at home (or the home of a relative), and have been faithful, both financially and actively engaged throughout their membership; but are unable to support the church towards the end of their lives, will not be denied burial at Liberty Hill. Their families also will not be expected to pay the non-member burial fee.
6. Children (up to age 18, or up to age 24 for college students) of Liberty Hill members who are victims of serious accidents or illnesses and die as a result, or is a victim of sudden death, will not be denied burial at Liberty Hill. Their parents/guardians will not be required to pay the non-member fee.

7. Grandfather Clause for Individuals 75 years of age or older:

If an individual is 75 years of age or older, they may be "grandfathered" regarding the minimum \$750 contribution. In order to take advantage of the *Grandfather Clause*, the individual must meet the following criteria:

- a. Be at least 75 years of age
- b. be ill or disabled at home, at a relative's home, or in a health care facility, living out of state, or a great distance away from church.
- c. be in good and regular standing with the church prior to moving to another,
- d. be of good and regular standing up to the point of the illness or disability,
- e. be a financially contributing member to the best of his/her ability; but no less than \$750 yearly prior to illness or disability,
- f. inform his/her class leader or the church within six (6) months of the onset of the illness or disability.

The Class Leader or the members of the church must be able to vouch that the member was in good standing before leaving the state or moving in with a relative or into the health care facility.

8. The Burial Committee for Historic Liberty Hill AME Church consists of the pastor, a member's Class Leader, Brother William Dallas and Brother Aaron Jones.

PART II. LIBERTY HILL CHURCH CEMETARY

As a priority of Historic Liberty Hill AME Church, it is our wish to provide a well-kept, reverent resting place for your loved ones and for ours. It is the responsibility of the Trustee Board of Historic Liberty Hill to maintain church property, including the church cemetery. Within our capacity as custodians of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, we must ensure the implied integrity and ethical standards governing Christ's Christian Church.

1. As of the date of this policy, no improper effigies (sculpture, statues, etc.) or markers or monuments bearing offensive inscriptions, signs or symbols shall be permitted to be placed in or upon any part of the Cemetery. This includes but is not limited to:
 - a. inappropriate text, or
 - b. signs or symbols that are offensive to the Christian Church or that does not align with church standards and values.
2. All memorial monuments, effigy, or any structure whatsoever, must be approved by the Trustee Department of Historic Liberty Hill AME Church prior to placement in the cemetery.
3. If any such monument, effigy, or any structure whatsoever, or any inscription be placed in or upon any plot, the cemetery committee shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to enter upon such plot and remove the offensive or improper object.
4. If the removal of such objects incurs any costs, the burial right owner shall be liable for all costs.