

AVON LAKE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Avon Lake, Ohio

Memorial Garden Guidelines

The Avon Lake United Church of Christ Memorial Garden will be a place of natural beauty and eternal remembrance and used for the scattering of ashes from cremations and as a place for prayer and meditation.

- I. The ashes are spread directly in the soil of the planting areas and become a part of the life of the garden. The church building will not be a repository for cremains.
- II. There will be no buried containers and no record to be kept of the exact location of an individual's ashes.
- III. No memorial markers, plaques, cut flowers, real or artificial, will be permitted as this is to be a living garden. When trees are planted in memory of someone, they will be noted in the Annual Report of the church for the year they were planted.
- IV. Scattering will be carried out by a minister of the Avon Lake United Church of Christ.
- V. The names of the interred will be recorded on the glass leaves at the back entrance of the church. Paper records will be kept in the church office and updated regularly.
- VI. The fee for scattering will be \$400.00 for members and \$500.00 for non-members. This fee may be waived at the discretion of the pastor. (Checks made payable to Avon Lake UCC.) It does not include any gratuity for pastoral services. All gifts and fees will be kept separate from the General Fund and used at the discretion of the Memorial Garden Committee for the care and maintenance of the Memorial Garden.
- VII. Arrangements will be made with the pastor and the church office. An information sheet is to be filled out and the "Terms and Conditions" document signed.
- VIII. Care of the Garden will be in the hands of the Memorial Garden Committee. Church parishioners and others who assist will be under the direction of the Memorial Garden Committee.
- IX. Funds for maintaining the garden will come from fees and other donations; there is a bequest specifically designated for this purpose.
- X. The Memorial Garden Committee will consist of the Memorial Garden Chairperson and at least two other members.
 - A. The committee will be renewed or replaced at the Annual Meeting on recommendation of the congregation's nominating committee.

B. The Memorial Garden Chairperson will convene meetings as needed, at least annually.

C. The memorial Garden Committee is responsible to the Board of Trustees and will submit an annual report. The report shall include the names of those interred, the total number of interments, a financial report, and any other information relative to activities or prospective plans of this committee.

- XI. Any request for change in the physical design of the Memorial Garden requires the approval of the Memorial Garden Committee.
- XII. All monies will be deposited in the Avon Lake United Church of Christ Memorial Garden Fund account. This money will be used exclusively for the operation and improvement of the Memorial Garden.
- XIII. Recommendations for amendments to these Guidelines may be made at any meeting of the Memorial Garden Committee by a 2/3rds vote of those present, provided the amendment has been submitted in writing to all members two weeks in advance of such meeting. Changes in the Guidelines must be submitted to and approved by the Church Council and will become effective as of the date of the Council approval.