

Funeral and Memorial Services

Trinity United Church, Beamsville

The congregation of Trinity United Church wishes to be a supportive companion for anyone who is experiencing a journey of grief and loss, as a reminder that “in life, in death, in life beyond death, we are not alone”(taken from *A New Creed of the United Church of Canada*). The service marking the end of a life is known by different names: a funeral, a memorial, or, a celebration of life. Though they use different language, these services share the same purpose. The service to mark the death of a loved one is a time to honour and give thanks for the life of the person who has died, and to mourn this loss. This time provides an opportunity to recall the person's life journey, and the blessings, challenges, as well as, the gifts of relationships that he or she shared with family and other people.

A funeral service is also a time for God to give us comfort and courage, and, for us to be nurtured by our faith and our hope of resurrection.

Planning A Funeral Service

Funeral and memorial services held in the church sanctuary will normally be conducted by the Minister of Trinity United Church. Our Minister may also be available to preside for services held in the chapel of a funeral home, or, at a graveside.

Family members may also wish to have other participants in the service. This will be decided in the planning process. Upon consultation with the Minister, other clergy may participate in the service. Should family members wish a Minister other than the Minister of Trinity United Church to conduct the service, this must be with the approval of the Trinity Minister and the Faith Formation Committee.

A continuation of the service may be held at the graveside directly following, or, held at a later date, as arranged with the Minister and the funeral home.

The planning of a funeral service entails a choice of readings of scripture and perhaps other readings, of music, and, of possible involvement of other participants besides the Minister. All these elements help shape a service that reflects the life of the person who has died, as well as, those who mourn this loss.

A printed order of service can be co-ordinated by the Office Administrator. The order of service can also be displayed by power point on the screens in the sanctuary.

An audio copy of the service may be provided if requested by the family. This is arranged by the Office Administrator.

Music

The Music Director of Trinity United Church will be consulted in the planning of music for the service. There will also be provision for soloists, special musicians, and, personal selections played through our audio system.

The Music Director will normally provide music prior to the service, while mourners arrive, during the service, and, after the service concludes, as mourners depart.

Flowers and Displays

Arrangements for delivery and set-up of flowers, pictures, and, displays, need to be made with the church office. If the services of a funeral home are used, this is taken care of by the funeral director, otherwise, it is the responsibility of the family. The church will be open to receive these for two hours prior to the service. It is also the responsibility of the family to remove all flowers, pictures, and displays, after the service, or, after the reception, if it is held at the church.

Receptions

A reception, hosted by the Trinity Catering Committee, may be held in Jory Hall following a funeral or memorial service. Fees vary, depending upon the type of reception desired. Arrangements may be made by contacting the church office at 905 563 4943 or info@trinitybeamsville.ca. If the family chooses to arrange its own catering, the church office will arrange for someone from the catering team to provide assistance during the set-up, throughout the reception, and, during clean-up. There will be a fee for this provision.

Honoraria

It is a privilege to support your family in this difficult time. We understand that some families wish to express gratitude in the form of an honoraria for the Minister. If you wish to do so, a customary amount is \$200. If you require the services of our Music Director, the fee is \$150. Additional musicians will determine their fees.

For further information or inquiries, please contact the church office at 905 563 4943 or info@trinitybeamsville.ca personally, or, through the funeral home.

*Please note that in accordance with our status as a Charitable Organization (CRA), Trinity United Church, Beamsville, does not differentiate fees based on congregational membership. (UCCAN Financial Handbook, Sec.5.13.1)