

# Funeral Policy at Arrowsmith Baptist Church

The passing of a loved one is always a difficult time to walk through, and we at Arrowsmith want to do all we can to bring comfort, encouragement and love to those who are bereaved. Because of the deep emotions and stress involved in times such as these, it can be very difficult to remember and follow through with the many decisions necessary to plan a funeral service. It is therefore our goal to set forth in this document a policy framework to bring order and clarity to the funeral planning process and to more effectively minister to bereaved families.

## The Nature of a Funeral Service

The Funeral Service is a service of worship. It is a time to bring comfort to the living, and to worship and glorify God. The pastoral staff member officiating will use this guideline in determining the appropriateness of all elements of the funeral service and arrangements.

## Who May Officiate for a Funeral at Arrowsmith?

It is customary for a pastor of Arrowsmith Baptist to officiate at funerals held in the church building. It is, however, possible to arrange for another pastor or Minister of the Gospel to officiate or assist in the funeral service, provided they share the same statement of faith/Biblical principles. In the case of funerals performed by a non-Arrowsmith pastor, prior approval must be obtained from the Arrowsmith Board of Elders, and must be done under the direct supervision of one of the Arrowsmith pastoral staff.

## Is Membership Required for an Arrowsmith Funeral Service?

We are committed to providing a funeral service, spiritual care and use of Arrowsmith's facilities as a ministry to all Arrowsmith members. The same provision may be offered to non-members at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and with the approval of the Board of Elders.

## What About a Luncheon?

If requested, the Deaconesses of Arrowsmith may organize a simple luncheon at the church following the funeral service. In order to manage church funds wisely, the Deaconesses will choose the menu for the luncheon. Families desiring special menus have the option to either hire their own caterer for the luncheon or purchase the special items themselves and ask the luncheon crew to prepare and/or serve it.

## What Costs Should We Expect?

The family is expected to cover the following costs: *All fees should be paid by the day of the service.*

- Cost of food items.
- Honorarium for staff services listed below should be made payable to individual staff members:
  - Pastor                      \$100 (*required* service)
  - Custodian                 \$100 (*required* service)
  - Sound Technician       \$100 (*required* service)
  - Pianist                     \$50 (optional service)
  - Soloist                     \$35 (optional service)

**SPECIAL NOTE:** The leadership of Arrowsmith seeks to be sensitive to the financial burdens borne by individuals and their families. At the discretion of the Senior Pastor, with the approval of two elders, costs for food and/or staff services for funerals at Arrowsmith Baptist may be reduced or waived.