

FUNERAL GUIDELINES

**Everglades Community Church
101 South Copeland Avenue
P.O. Box 177**

Everglades City, FL 34139

Phone (239) 6950-4787

THE MINISTRY OF THIS CHURCH

Everglades Community Church is an ecumenical and inclusive non-denominational Christian church serving the Everglades City and surrounding communities area bringing a spiritual message of hope and redemption, firmly grounded in Scripture and the teaching of Jesus Christ, to our community.

THE MINISTRY OF THE PASTOR

The pastor's ministry is to lead the bereaved of this Congregation into and through the services of the church where the Gospel can be heard with healing power and clarity. In an effort to be positive and to emphasize the victory of the resurrection, the pain and loss of death is not minimized or ignored. Both must be held in balance. The bereaved need to confront and accept the loss of the deceased as well as be given hope. Moreover, this congregation needs to be encouraged to support the bereaved not only at the time of the funeral but also as the bereaved return to their homes and duties of their lives.

THE SERVICE OF THE BURIAL OF THE DEAD

The Funeral Service may be used with the deceased present, or a Memorial Service following interment or cremation, or when the body has been destroyed in an accident or natural catastrophe.

FUNERALS FOR NON-MEMBERS

Conducting funerals for people who have no connection with this church is a normal part of the pastoral obligation of Everglades Community Church.

MUSIC SELECTIONS

Music selected for use at a funeral should embody high standards of quality, and in general reflect the spirit of Christian confidence, trust, and hope in the resurrection. The hymns should reflect such themes as the invocation of the Holy Spirit, the communion of saints, and hope in the resurrection. Hymn versions of appropriate psalms may be sung also. Alternate contemporary music may be used at the discretion of the Pastor. If special live is selected music it should be submitted to the Music Director as soon as possible. If recorded music is desired, the tape or CD should be given to the Audio/Tech one (1) hour before the service begins.

FLOWERS

Two vases of cut flowers shall be provided for \$30 after arrangements have been made with the Flower Chair. After the funeral, the flowers may be left at the church, carried to the grave site, or taken by family members. All other flowers, potted plants, floral sprays and cut flowers should be taken by the family by prior arrangement.

PRINTED ORDER OF SERVICE

A printed Order of the Funeral Service may also contain information about the deceased and will be made available by Everglades Community Church at no cost.

MEMORIALS

Memorials to Everglades Community Church are encouraged. Specific memorials are available, or separate gifts should be discussed with the Pastor.

FRATERNAL GROUPS

Such groups, upon the consent of the Pastor, and following approval by the family, may be permitted to give tribute to the deceased.

SCHEDULING A FUNERAL

The funeral hours shall be established after consultation with the Pastor.

PASTORAL SERVICES TO MEMBERS OF ANOTHER CONGREGATION

The responsibility and authority for pastoral acts or services rest with the Pastor of the congregation where the deceased held membership. When the Pastor of Everglades Community Church is asked to provide pastoral services for members of other congregations, he shall contact the Pastor of the church in which the person held membership before providing the service.

HONORARIUMS ARE IDENTICAL TO THOSE IN THE GUIDELINES FOR WEDDINGS AT EVERGLADES COMMUNITY CHURCH

Minister: \$200.00

Pianist/Organist: \$150.00

Soloist: \$100.00

Audio Tech: \$ 75.00

Only a person approved by the Pastor may operate the sound system.

SANCTUARY

Members of Everglades Community Church: \$ 00.00

Non-members: \$100.00

FELLOWSHIP HALL

The fees are based upon the assumption that the Funeral Service will last no longer than one (1) hour and that the use of the Fellowship Hall will follow immediately. Fellowship Hall may be used for a reception following the funeral. Arrangements may be negotiated with the Women's Auxiliary for providing meals and/or refreshments. Utilizing a catering service must be approved by the Pastor and the Women's Auxiliary Chair.

ALCOHOL AND SMOKING

The use of alcoholic beverage is prohibited before, during and after the funeral. Everglades Community Church is a smoke free environment.

PICTURES AND VIDEO RECORDINGS

Flash pictures may be taken before and after the Funeral Service but not during the Funeral Service. Video recording is allowed but may not interfere with the Funeral Ceremony.

Approved by the Board of Governors September 13, 2006