

## **Funeral Service Policy at Friendship Baptist Church**

In our efforts to assist you in properly planning the eulogistic services for your loved one, the following information has been prepared for your perusal and consideration.

### **I. The Christian Funeral**

The Christian funeral is a worship service in which God's people witness to their faith in the hope of the Gospel, the communion of saints, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. It is a time in which the comforting assurance of God's love and salvation in Christ is ministered, especially to the Christian bereaved.

### **II. Planning**

1. In the event of a death, the office should be notified as soon as possible.
2. At no time should funerals be planned without first consulting the church. The schedule of the pastor and the church should be respectfully considered at all times in making eulogistic arrangements.
3. When the funeral is to be held at Friendship Baptist Church, the following information is necessary:
  - a. A copy of the funeral service program as soon as possible.
  - b. The number of family members that will be returning to the church for family repast.
4. When funerals are conducted at Friendship Baptist Church, staff ministers will ordinarily officiate the entire funeral service. The Senior Pastor has sole responsibility and discretion in carrying out church funeral services. If the family request a minister that is not a minister of Friendship Baptist Church to deliver the eulogy or take part in the funeral services, the Senior Pastor will be consulted for his final decision. It is not the family's responsibility to contact the requested minister, but the responsibility of the Senior Pastor or his designate. The following information is needed at the time the request is made:
  - a. The minister's name.
  - b. Church affiliation.
  - c. Telephone number.
  - d. What the minister will be doing in the service. (eulogy, prayer, scripture, etc.)

### **III. Service**

1. Only Christian ministers may participate in the service, and only Christian ministers will sit on the platform during the service.
2. Because of the emotional strain to the family, it is the policy of Friendship Baptist Church that at the beginning of the funeral service, (following the family's final viewing) the casket will be closed.
3. Resolutions are given to members of the church and non-members are given condolences.
4. If the deceased is not a member, the family repast will be handled at the discretion of the Pastor.
5. The Overseer of Grief and Convalescent will communicate and be a support ministry to the family during the time of bereavement.