

Advance Funeral Service Planning

My Name:

Introduction:

There are many decisions to be made at the time of death. You can offer your family a caring gift if you choose to make some of those decisions now. This is a check list of issues that need to be addressed in planning for your funeral. Don't worry if you can't answer all the questions and feel free to indicate if you don't care about some things. This is just a guide to help us all to make the funeral as meaningful as possible.

1. Physical Details

A. Number in order of preference those you prefer (1 is favoured site):

Church (specify)

Funeral home (specify if known)

Home (rare, but possible for a small gathering)

At the grave site (specify if known)

Other

B. Cremation ____ or Burial ____

There is no religious teaching against either.

C. Presence of the Casket or Urn at the Funeral

Yes

No

If a casket is present, cover it up with a pall ____ (fabric covering with a cross)

D. Flowers ____

Memorial Gifts to:

Church ____

Specials projects if appropriate

Charity ____

Charity(ies) of Choice

E. Reception Location (Funeral Home is convenient if service is there, but costliest alternative, church is reasonable and convenient, home is intimate but a lot of work for friends or family or both unless professionals cater at home).

Church ____

Funeral Home ____

Home ____

Other ____

Any special requests?

2. Funeral or Memorial Service

A. Outline

Prelude

Scripture Sentences

Welcome and Purpose

Hymn

Prayer

We Remember

Scripture Readings

Special Music

Meditation

Prayer, Lord's Prayer

Commendation

Committal if appropriate

Announcement about burial, reception

Hymn

Blessing

Recessional

Postlude

B. Participants

Eulogist(s)

Scripture Reader(s)

Musician(s)

Ushers

Pall bearers

Minister(s)

C. Music

Prelude, Postlude (secular and sacred, live and recorded music is possible)

Hymns For Service (see list if appropriate)

Solos

D. Readings

(As with choosing favourite hymns, leaving your family a list of favourite scriptures can be a great gift of comfort. Emphasize those you would like for the service by writing them below, but notes about others that inspire you will be special messages for your family to gain strength in the coming years.)

E. We Remember

I would prefer separate people to do the remembering and give the meditation
___ or I would prefer to have one person gather up all the threads of my life in one

address ____? I recognize that people may need to speak and would not want to deny them ____.

F. Significant Facts about My Life

Parents (special memories, gifts they gave me, etc.)

Birth (date, place, significant stories)

Siblings

Marriage(s)

Children's births (names, dates)

Places lived:

Other special dates, events

Special Friends

Work History

Volunteer History

Church Involvements

Special Interests, Talents, etc.

Memberships in Organizations

Other Interesting Facts, Stories about My Life

G. Meditation

(These questions will be helpful to the person(s) preparing the reflection on my life).

What is most important to me?

What would I like to be remembered about me?

What am I thankful for?

What makes me happy?

What drives me crazy?

How has God been present in my life?

Has my faith made a difference to me? How?

What do I strongly believe?

What stories are really significant for me?

If I had one message to share, this is what I would want people to hear:

I recognize that lots of things can change, so don't worry if you can't carry out every little wish of mine. I'll be in a better place and all my needs will be taken care of. Now, I'm going to get on with living so you'll have lots of great things to remember me for!!!!