

## PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH CEMETERY POLICIES

AUGUST 2023

1. There will be no charge for the burial plot of a church member (as defined in the November 2021 Constitution and By-laws), member's spouse, and the member's **unmarried dependent children**. A non-member spouse/former spouse of a member already interred in the church cemetery may be interred in the cemetery only if there is a burial plot that was previously reserved for the spouse/former spouse.
2. Persons who are **not** church members but are **dependent on the member for their support and care (such as) mother, father, or adult children, may purchase a burial plot for the sum of \$647 as of the date of this policy revision (August 2023)**, provided a plot is available **and** with the approval of the Church Cemetery Team.

The cost of the plot must be paid to the church at the time plot selection is made. These funds will be deposited in the cemetery account and used for the maintenance of the cemetery.

The current plot purchase price of \$647 has been adjusted by the Social Security COLA through the year 2022. The plot price will be adjusted every succeeding five years based on the cumulative COLA for that five year period.
3. Members having designated plots may give them to **immediate family members who meet the above requirements** or relinquish them to the church. Exchange of plots between families may be made with the approval of the Cemetery Team only.
4. Anyone that has been a church member for a minimum of 20 years will be considered "vested" and may retain a reserved gravesite even if leaving the church body for any reason. To retain the gravesite, the vested church member must contact the Cemetery Team within 6-months of leaving Pleasant Grove Baptist Church and request that their reserved gravesite be retained for them as a vested member.
5. The reserving and subsequent use of a plot does not confer the right to do any planting of flowers or shrubs, erecting structures of any type including burial vaults, or coping and enclosures around a plot.
6. Burial shall be underground and depths of graves shall not be less than 4 feet.
7. No plots shall be filled above the established grade of the cemetery ground. Grass sod will be removed in sections and replaced upon the grave closure. Excess soil will not be piled on cemetery property. However it may be placed on the north side of the adjoining lot and spread out by funeral home employees opening and closing the gravesite.
8. All **HEAD STONES**, placed on ground level, must have, as a minimum, **"A Concrete Base, extending not less than six inches completely around the stone"**. Using a marble slab to place the head stone on as a substitute for the concrete base is acceptable. All **CORNER MARKERS** and **FOOT MARKERS** when used, shall be plainly marked and not exceed one inch above the established ground level. This provision is necessary to protect the family's valuable stones from

damage by maintenance equipment and to keep them level. **A designated member of the Cemetery Team must be present when stones and/or markers arrive to ensure proper alignment and compliance with church policy, NO EXCEPTIONS.**

9. The florist and/or funeral home should be called one week after the funeral to remove withered wreaths and flowers. **This is a family responsibility.**

10. With the exception of small American flags at Veterans graves, **no Artificial Wreaths, Flowers, Potted Plants, Flags, Rocks and/or Bricks of any type will be allowed on ground level during the mowing season EXCEPT; Easter, Memorial Day and Homecoming and then should remain for (1) one week.** The Cemetery Team recommends that families use wreaths, flower and plant receptacles that affix to the stone, thereby enabling the maintenance crew to properly maintain the cemetery. **You are reminded that the timely removal of ALL old flowers and any unsightly material from plots is the sole responsibility of the family, florist and/or funeral home. Some of the withered and old flowers, etc. have been discarded in the woods on the North adjoining lot; this area shall not be used as a trash dump.** There is a receptacle near the pine tree for trash or it may preferably be placed in the church garbage dumpster.

11. Inspection of the cemetery shall be made monthly by the Cemetery Team to ensure compliance with church policy and that the cemetery is properly maintained.

12. This policy shall be reviewed and updated annually by the Cemetery Team as required and presented to the church in conference for approval of any revisions.

13. Copies of this policy shall be made available on the church website and to local funeral homes.

14. Active church members who desire burial plots are encouraged to reserve them with the Cemetery Team.

15. The cemetery area is exposed and subject to strong winds that have in the past blown flower arrangements (especially saddle type) from their original location. When this happens and the arrangement is still in usable condition, the arrangement will be placed back on a stone monument, more than likely not the correct one, so if your arrangement is missing feel free to move it back to its proper location. It is suggested that the name of the individual for whom it is intended be attached in some manner so the proper location can be determined.

16. Previously reserved plots for non-vested church members are subject to removal if the person(s) is not listed in the annual active church member roster for two consecutive years.