

**St. Peter's Parish Church
Cemetery Regulations
February 2017**

1. The Vestry of St. Peter's Church shall have control of the Cemetery subject to the advice and recommendations of the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Warden shall be appointed by the vestry, and he/she will in turn appoint committee members. It is assumed that the Warden and members shall serve for a significant period of time to assure continuity of policy and knowledge of burial records.
2. Only members of St. Peter's Church shall have the right to purchase burial rights in the Cemetery.
3. When a member purchases a plot in the cemetery the value that is actually transferred is a right of burial. The land itself does not convey. The purchase price also includes a one-time fee for perpetual care. Deed holders may resell their burial rights back to the vestry only, and only at the original price paid. Burial rights may be transferred by gift only to blood relatives, such transfers being subject to approval by the vestry. Since the composition of families changes over the course of years, it is natural that earlier intentions about the use of plots may give way to new intentions. Deed holders are encouraged to contact the Cemetery Warden about such matters as they become known. Prior planning will smooth the path in the event that an interment is required suddenly.
4. When burial lots are assigned the Treasurer of St. Peter's Parish Church shall collect a fee, as set by the Vestry upon recommendation of the Cemetery Committee, for the burial rights and endowment. This provision may only be waived by the Vestry in the event of hardship. A 10' by 10' plot may contain two vaults or grave liners and is \$1000.00 A 3' by 3' cremation plot is \$600.00 and may contain a maximum of two cremation urns
5. All coffins shall be buried in vaults or grave liners. Cremated remains shall be buried in a suitable stone, metal or wooden urn. Cremated remains buried in the Memorial Garden should be in biodegradable urns or buried directly in the ground.
6. There shall be no Service of Committal in the St. Peter's Cemetery without notice to the Rector. The Rector shall preside at the burial of all members of St. Peter's Church.
7. Inscribed grave markers shall be required for every grave site within six months of burial. The Vestry of St. Peter's Church must have the right to approve or disapprove any inscription which would not be in character with a colonial church cemetery. All markers and stones shall be mounted on concrete bases and properly anchored. Although the style and size of stones and other markers placed on individual grave sites is largely a matter left to the family, markers must be made of natural stone and shall not be of bizarre or unconventional design. All deed holders should present a proposal of monument style and inscription to the Cemetery Warden before purchasing any stone or monument.
8. Tombs and above ground vaults are not permitted in any part of the cemetery.

9. Each burial in the Memorial Garden shall have a bronze marker (to include only the name and date of birth and death) which must be purchased through the church office. This, in effect, is the fee for burial in the Memorial Garden. All containers must be biodegradable. A suggested donation of \$100 will be contributed to the perpetual care of the cemetery. Scattering of the ashes will be allowed, but a name plate must still be placed to commemorate the deceased. No ashes may be scattered until coordination has been made with the rector.

10. There shall be no artificial flowers or arrangements of any kind placed in the cemetery at any time. Live flowers, potted plants and floral arrangements may be placed on the grave sites or burial lots at any time, provided however, that the custodians of the Cemetery shall have the right to remove these items when they die or become unattractive. Glass containers shall not be used for floral arrangements. There shall be no grading, planting, landscape work, or improvements of any kind without the written authorization of the Cemetery and Grounds Committee. Lot fencing is not permitted.

11. There shall be no flags or banners of any kind (other than small United States flags) placed in the cemetery.
(There shall be no decorative items in the cemetery other than fresh flowers, potted plants, and or small U.S. flags.)

12. There shall be no pet burials in the cemetery.

13. Visitation in the Cemetery shall only be during the daylight hours. No one, including members of St. Peter's Church, shall trespass in the cemetery after dark.

14. Relic hunting in the cemetery or the church grounds is prohibited.

15. No stones, vaults, or remains shall be removed from the Cemetery or Memorial Garden without written permission of the Vestry of St. Peter's Church or the issuance of a proper court order.

16. The Vestry of St. Peter's Church may reclaim unused burial sites should there no longer be any member of the family who would use said lot. These reclaimed lots will be made available to members of St. Peter's Church. Any funds realized from the remaining lots shall become part of the Cemetery endowment.

17. The Cemetery and Grounds Committee shall keep an updated map with lot assignments at the parish office.

18. Money from donations and the sale of lots shall be used for the improvement and upkeep of the cemeteries.

Signature of deed holder _____

Date _____