The Policy of the Board of Deacons on

Memorial Services and Funerals

held at
The Kingston Congregational Church.

Voted 9/18/2002

The congregation of the church has given the Board of Deacons the responsibility for all services of worship in the church, including memorial services and funerals.

Remembering a beloved family member or friend is an important time in the life of one's spiritual journey. The way in which we remember and commend to God's hands the one who has died helps those left behind to mourn and grieve appropriately and to bid farewell within the context of the church -- the body of believers of whom Christ is the head.

The Pastor works with the family to prepare for a service which will be most meaningful to them and which is most in keeping with the intended wishes of the one who has died. Often, the Pastor will visit with the family to minister to them and pray with them following the death of a loved one.

Most frequently, the funeral home will be the first point of contact for the family of one who has died. It is the funeral home which contacts the Pastor to seek his availability. Then, the Pastor contacts the family to guide their making of arrangements for the funeral or memorial service. Sometimes, however, families prefer to arrange for a memorial service themselves. Sometimes, those who are not active current members of the church will desire a memorial service to be held at The Kingston Congregational Church.

Funerals and memorial services are usually held at the funeral home or at the church. To provide information and to avoid misunderstandings at a time of mourning, the following policies are presented to those who might desire to arrange a funeral or memorial service at The Kingston Congregational Church.

Policies and Procedures:

1. THE Pastor OF THE CHURCH WILL OFFICIATE AT ALL SERVICES which take place at the The Kingston Congregational Church, unless for some reason that is not possible. Guest clergy (e.g., relatives or friends who are ministers) may be invited to take a part in the service, but only at the invitation extended by the Pastor of The Kingston Congregational Church.

2. THE CHURCH ORGANIST WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MUSIC. If unavailable for any service, the organist will make other arrangements in consultation with the Pastor. Suitability of certain music for the organ, as well as consideration of the appropriateness of suggested music, will be the decision of the organist. Use of recorded music (e.g., tape recording) is not encouraged. Guest musicians should not be invited until after consultation with the organist and Pastor. A soloist may be arranged through the organist.

3. FEES.
   a. Please see the "Rate Sheet for Funerals and Weddings," which includes fees for staff and facilities – available from the Office Administrator 401-783-5330.

   b. Other churches or organizations desiring to rent space for funerals or memorial services (and who will provide their own minister) may rent the sanctuary (and sexton) for $350. If music is desired, there is a fee for the organist and for the soloist, if desired.