

**Minnedosa United Church**  
Minnedosa, MB

**Guidelines for Funeral Services**

Minnedosa United Church offers you our sympathy and our prayers at this time of loss. We consider it part of our ministry to assist you as you plan the service for your loved one.

Preparing for a funeral and dealing with the death of one we love is a difficult time. We experience a myriad of feelings, and the community of faith can be an important support in the grieving process and in planning the funeral service. It reminds us that we are not alone, and we have companions with us on the journey. It is an opportunity to call upon God to give us strength and courage. A funeral or memorial service is a service of worship to give thanks for the life as we grieve our loss. Drawing on our faith we are empowered by our hope of eternal life, which enables us to face death and offer thanksgiving for the gift of life.

**1. Planning**

Our minister will meet with you to plan the service so that it might be a fitting remembrance and tribute to the person you are honouring. You will be assisted in choosing scripture, hymns, and other components of the service. Your wishes and those of the deceased will be followed to the best of our ability, in keeping with the traditions of the church.

**2. Leadership**

Our minister will conduct the funeral service. If he/she is away, there will be a neighbouring minister on call. If, for a special reason, you wish to have another minister take part in the service, you are welcome to do so, in consultation with our minister.

**3. Choir**

Upon request, members of the Minnedosa choir will attend to assist with congregational singing. We encourage you to choose hymns from our Voices United Hymnbook. You may request the choir to sing an appropriate Anthem.

**4. Family**

Private space will be provided for the family before the service. The family is encouraged to join the congregation in reciting prayers and is invited to sing hymns in hopes of bringing comfort and alleviating feelings of isolation and loneliness.

**5. Committal Service**

The brief service at the graveside is typically the final moment of the funeral service. It is during this time that we commend the life of the deceased to God's care and the body (ashes) of the deceased to the ground. This service may be arranged at a time separate from the funeral service and at a time agreed upon by the family, minister, and funeral home.

## 6. Reception

Following the memorial service or committal, a reception may be helpful in allowing us to be surrounded by the love of family and friends. A funeral "lunch" may be held in the church hall and can be catered by the church upon request.

## 7. Memorial Fund

When donations are made to the Minnedosa United Church Memorial Fund, the name of the loved one will be recorded in the Church's Memorial Book and the family will be informed.

## 8. Honoraria

Many families ask for guidance in making contributions to cover the cost of a funeral in the church, as we have ongoing expenses related to the upkeep of our building. These contributions can be made through the funeral home, or a cheque made out to the church can be given to the minister.

**Use of Church Sanctuary**                      \$150  
(The Sanctuary holds approximately 150 people)

**Organist**    \$100  
Will be arranged by the church and priority will be given to our regular organist.

**Care Taker**    \$100  
This includes unlocking & locking doors, setting up chairs, sound system, extra cleaning, being available to family and funeral directors, etc.

**Lunch**    \$5.00 per person  
This would include sandwiches, as well as pickles, sweets, coffee & tea.  
A second option of fruit bread and cheese (with pickles, sweets, coffee & tea) is available.  
\*Note: a minimum charge of \$100 will apply to all church lunches provided.  
If an outside caterer is used, there will be an additional fee as per our Facility Use Policy.

**Minister**    \$200  
Recognizing that a funeral generally falls on top of other planned work and usually includes overtime hours for the minister, you may wish to offer a gift of appreciation, which is not required, but would be acceptable.

**Choir**    Donation  
The choir will be present to help with congregational hymns. If an anthem is requested, a donation to the choir fund which helps with the purchase of music is greatly appreciated.

We hope these guidelines will assist you in your planning. We are glad to be able to serve you at this time of need. May God comfort you in your sorrow and may the support of friends and community be a blessing to you.

These guidelines have been developed and approved by  
The Council of Minnedosa United Church  
November 2010 - Revised March 2015, Nov 2021