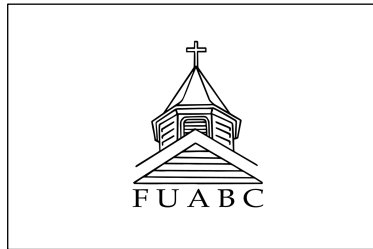


First Union African Baptist Church
Daufuskie Island, South Carolina



Rules and Regulations
for
Burials in and the Management of
the
Church Cemetery

Preamble:

In reverence to our shared heritage and in acknowledgment of the diverse tapestry of our community, we, the custodians of this sacred ground, present these rules and regulations governing interment within our church cemetery. Rooted in the spirit of respect, unity, and the preservation of our Gullah heritage, these guidelines serve to honor the traditions and values cherished by our ancestors, both black and white. As stewards of this hallowed place, we recognize the significance of each soul whose remains find eternal rest within these consecrated grounds. From the roots of Gullah culture, and steeped in resilience, faith, and connection to this island, we draw inspiration to uphold the sanctity and dignity of every burial. Therefore, with reverence for the past and a commitment to inclusivity, we embrace individuals of all backgrounds, races, colors, and walks of life who seek solace and peace in our church cemetery. We believe that each soul at rest here, whether descendants of enslaved Africans or descendants of settlers from any land, is a thread in the rich tapestry of our shared history woven together by the common bonds of humanity. In these rules and regulations, we strive to maintain the integrity of our cemetery as a sacred space where all who rest here may find eternal peace and where the living may find solace and connection to their heritage. May these rules and regulations serve as a testament to our enduring commitment to honor the Gullah heritage and to foster unity, understanding, and respect within our beloved community.

Governance:

There is a Cemetery Committee of the Board of Trustees of the First Union African Baptist Church. The Chair of the Cemetery Committee is a member of the Board of Trustees and is appointed to the position by the Board of Trustees. The Chair of the Cemetery Committee, in consultation with the members of the Cemetery Committee, is empowered by the Board of Trustees to discharge the responsibilities contained in these Rules and Regulations. Whenever the Chair of the Cemetery Committee is unavailable to discharge any of these responsibilities, such responsibilities shall reside with the Chair of the Board of Trustees. Requests for exceptions to, or for instances not covered by, the Rules and Regulations shall be directed to, and the responsibility of, the Chair of the Board of Trustees in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee.

I. Rules for Church Members, Family Members, and Non-Members planning Burial in the Church Cemetery

A burial site in the Church Cemetery that is granted to a Member, Family Member, or Non-Member provides the grantee the right of burial therein - as an easement or license or privilege. It does not confer ownership of the soil. When a burial site is granted, the rights and privileges of the grantee are expressed in, and subject to, these Rules and Regulations.

A. Planning Burial in Advance:

1. Members may, in their estate planning process, apply for a designated burial site. The site requested will normally be granted.
2. Family Members (e.g. Child not enrolled in the Church) may be granted a burial site in advance when their Church-enrolled Member (e.g. Parent) includes them by name in their application and the application is approved and the burial site is granted.
3. Non-Members may not request burial sites in advance.

B. Planning Burial in Extremis:

1. Following the death of a Member, the executor or family representative may apply for a burial site. In consultation with the Committee and the family members, the Chair will normally grant a burial site for the Member.
2. Following the death of a Family Member (e.g. Child/Spouse not enrolled in the Church), the executor or family representative may apply for burial within the existing site granted to their Church-enrolled Member (e.g. Parent/Spouse).
 - a. Provided there is a gravesite available, the Chair will normally grant the Family Member the privilege of burial within the site.
 - b. When a gravesite is not available within the Member's existing site, the application may be considered by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board and the Cemetery Committee.
3. Following the death of a Non-Member, the executor or family representative may apply for burial in the Church Cemetery.

a. Non-Members of Daufuskie Island Gullah families, as declared eligible by the Gullah Trustees of the First Union African Baptist Church, will normally be granted burial privileges. The Chair, in consultation with the Gullah Trustees and family members, will designate the burial site, normally in that section of the Church Cemetery reserved for Heritage Gullah burials.

b. Non-Members who are related to a Member - more distantly than a spouse, child, parent, or sibling - may be found eligible upon application if their related Member has been buried in the Church Cemetery and there is a gravesite available within that Member's burial site.

c. Non-Members other than those described above are not normally eligible for burial in the Church Cemetery, but an application may be considered by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee.

4. Former Pastors and their spouses and First Union African Baptist Church-supported missionaries and their spouse are eligible for burial in the Church Cemetery and will normally be granted burial privileges upon application either during their own estate planning process or following their death by the application of their executor or family representative.

C. Costs of a Burial Site:

1. The cost(s) of a burial site shall be established by the Board of Trustees when it approves the Church Budget, normally annually. The Board may establish a table of costs associated with the categories of eligibility for burial in the Church Cemetery. For example:

Grant	Gravesite	Plot = 2 Gravesites side-by-side	Lot = 2 Plots back-to-back (or as desig)	Columbarium Vault if made available.
Member				
Family Member				
Non-Member Gullah				
Non-Member				
Former Pastor & Spouse				
FUABC Supported Missionary & Spouse				

2. The Board of Trustees is authorized to modify, waive, or refund these costs at its discretion.

3. Each gravesite in the cemetery is designated by an alphanumeric identification code on the Church Cemetery plat map as maintained in the Church records. Grants of burial sites - gravesites, plots and lots - shall be recorded with the individual names of each grantee immediately upon the grant of the site.
4. The Church recommends that Members and Family Members who wish their remains to rest in the Church Cemetery plan their burial in advance of their need.
5. A new gravesite in the Church Cemetery may only be opened after it has been granted and recorded by the Chair of the Cemetery Committee or the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
6. Family Members planning their own burial adjacent to their Member relative must apply for and receive the grant of their gravesite(s) before any gravestone can be placed or later has their name inscribed.

II. Regulations for the Management of the Cemetery and its Burial Sites

A. Memorials

1. Memorials may be placed and inscribed only after a burial site has been granted and recorded by the Chair of the Cemetery Committee or the Chair of the Board of Trustees.
2. Headstones shall be no larger than 24 inches long, 12 inches wide, flush to the soil, and no less than 2 inches in depth (below ground).
3. Footstones shall conform to regulations for headstones.
4. Monuments shall be placed upright at the head of the burial site. They shall be constructed with a concrete foundation no less than 10 inches in depth (below ground) and an above ground design no larger than 36 inches long, 24 inches wide, and 46 inches tall.
5. An alternative style monument would be a flat marker the size of the grave (e.g. the marker over Deacon Jenkins grave).
6. Mausoleums are not normally approved, but upon the request of a Church Member may be considered by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee.

7. The Church may establish a columbarium. Then cinerary remains could either be buried in a gravesite or inurned in a columbarium vault. Until such time as a columbarium may be established, cinerary remains in an urn must be buried in a gravesite or entombed in a memorial niche in the manner of a burial monument as in number 4 above. The Church Cemetery does not have a scattering garden and ashes may not be scattered in the Church Cemetery. There may be no more than six cremains interred in any one gravesite.

8. Plantings - such as a memorial tree - are not normally approved, but upon the request of a Church Member may be considered by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee.

9. No enclosures - such as a fence, rail, or any other kind - are permitted around any burial site.

10. No permanent mounds above the grade line are permitted.

B. Care of the Cemetery

1. The Church, through the Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee, is responsible for maintaining the grounds of the Church Cemetery and may engage a caretaker/landscaper, at its discretion. The Church is not responsible for maintaining memorials nor for remedying vandalism to memorials.

2. Members, Family Members, and Congregants of the Church are invited in fellowship to voluntarily look after the memorials and the presentation of the Church Cemetery in general.

3. Following a funeral, the family of the deceased is asked to clear wreaths, natural flowers and perishable mementos before they become unsightly or are blown astray, normally within 30 days. Family members are also asked to subsequently keep no more than two artificial flower arrangements on a grave and to remove or replace them when they become worn.

4. The Church may assume responsibility for clearing mementos left at a grave after they have become worn, unsightly or unidentifiable. Notwithstanding, some Gullah mementos are left in perpetuity and may remain on the grave indefinitely. FUABC Gullah Trustees shall be responsible for determining the appropriateness of Gullah Mementos.

III. Glossary

Burial Site - general term meaning a gravesite, a plot, or a lot

Columbarium - a structure of vaults lined with recesses for cinerary urns

Designated Burial Site - a specific gravesite, plot, or lot identified alphanumerically in the Cemetery plat map

Exception - a case not covered by these Rules and Regulations; to be considered and decided upon by the Chair of the Board of Trustees, in consultation with the Board and the Cemetery Committee

Family Member - a spouse, child, parent, or sibling of a Member, not themselves enrolled in the First Union African Baptist Church

Footstone - a stone placed at the foot of a gravesite; it may be flush with the ground or upright

Grant - to document in Church records a designated burial site to a grantee

Grantee - a Member, Family Member, or Non-Member granted a designated burial site documented in Church records

Grave - an occupied gravesite

Gravesite - a 10' x 4' site reserved for either one casket or up to six urns

Headstone - a memorial stone placed at the head of a gravesite; it may be upright or flush with the ground.

Lot - two or more contiguous plots (as reserved for several family members)

Mausoleum - a stone entombment above ground for one or two caskets

Member - a person enrolled in the First Union African Baptist Church

Monument - a stone memorial erected in remembrance of a person (e.g. an obelisk)

Non-Member - any person not a Member or Family Member of First Union African Baptist Church

Open - to dig or to uncover

Plot - two side-by-side gravesites (e.g. as reserved for a married couple)

Vault - a prefabricated container of metal or concrete into which a casket is placed at burial