

## Frequently Asked Questions      About CCPC's Memorial Garden

1. What is a columbarium?
  - a. The word columbarium has come to mean a structure with compartments, or niches, for holding urns. Cherry Creek Presbyterian Church Columbarium will initially have 140 niches, and can expand up to 420 niches, where urns containing cremated remains are inurned. Each niche has the capacity to hold two urns. The niches are sealed with engraved stone fronts showing the name and life dates of those inurned within.
2. Why should I choose the CCPC Memorial Garden for myself or for my family?
  - a. Historically, Christians have laid the dead to rest in churches, where they are remembered and their remains safeguarded. Burial within the church itself, or in an adjacent churchyard, was once a widespread practice. We desire to create a place of legacy for your children and grandchildren. We envision a final resting place for you and your loved ones that reminds them of the central place of Christ in your life. We hope it to be a peaceful setting for family and friends to reflect and honor the your memory and remind them of your connection to the body of this church and the importance of CCPC in your life.
3. Who is allowed to reserve the a niche?
  - a. Anyone with a connection to CCPC can pay the reservation fee and will have a space reserved for their cremains in a niche. This will continue on a first come first serve basis, so long as niches are available.
4. How will the columbarium be financed?
  - a. Funding for the columbarium is provided through the reservation of niches, memorial plaques and donor contributions. The columbarium will be self-supporting.
5. How much does a niche cost and what is included in the price?
  - a. **The Pre-Construction costs is \$6,100.** This includes use of the space in the Niche, an urn for each person inurned for a maximum of two with nameplate, a plaque with a Niche Inscription, the initial opening and closing of the Niche, and the ongoing common maintenance of The Memorial Garden. It does not include the cost of cremation. Because of increased cost of material, the post construction costs for a niche will increase.
6. Are there any financing options?
  - a. No. Payments for the use of the niches and plaques must be paid in full at the time of reservation.
7. Who keeps records, operates and maintains the Memorial Garden?
  - a. The Memorial Garden Administrator or designee, assigned by the Session of CCPC, maintains all files and records for the columbarium, including the identity and location of cremains inurned. The Administrator, with funds in a reserve fund, maintains the columbarium, including the architecture, landscaping, and supervises all service providers, such as water irrigation system, snow removal, tree care, gardening and lawn service.
8. How is the construction of the Memorial Garden paid for and how are the costs of maintenance covered?
  - a. The Memorial Garden will be self-funding through the reservation of niches, plaques and donations. In addition, Session designated surplus funds from last year's budget to jumpstart construction.
9. How were these prices set?

- a. The prices were established based on a careful and thoughtful analysis of several factors, including, construction, inurnment costs, administration, ongoing maintenance costs and anticipated donations.
10. Is the reservation fee of a niche tax deductible?
- a. We will not be giving a tax deductible donation receipt for reservation of a niche. Our research shows we can not count this as a donation. Donations toward construction will be counted as tax deductible. We recommend you ask your CPA for clarification regarding your personal situation.
11. Will there be extra costs at inurnment?
- a. CCPC will not charge any additional costs for inurnment in a niche. Cremation and mortuary related expenses will be a separate cost to be taken care of by you, your estate or your heirs. While the memorial service is not included in the niche reservation costs, currently CCPC does not charge for a memorial service. The costs of the urns and of engraving have been included in the reservation fee and paid for in full.
12. What is inscribed on the niche?
- a. The person's or persons' full name(s) with month, date and years of birth and death.
13. What is an urn?
- a. Urns are the receptacles into which ashes are placed. The urns are then placed in the niche. The urns provided with the reservation of a niche are made of sheet bronze.
14. May I use my own urn?
- a. We request that you use the CCPC provided urn. This urn is provided with your reservation and specifically fits into the niche.
15. May other items be inurned with the cremains?
- a. No. No valuables, trinkets or medals of any kind shall be placed in the urn or niche. The niche may be used only for the inurnment of human cremains in an urn. A single urn in a Niche may hold the human cremains of only one person and two urns in a Niche may hold the human cremains of only two persons. No pet ashes may be inurned in the Memorial Garden.
16. How many niches may I reserve?
- a. You may reserve as many as needed. For example, families may opt to reserve multiple niches, with two urns per niche.
17. May I choose the location of the niche?
- a. Specific Niche locations will be assigned by Pastoral Care at the time of inurnment. Because this is a small, exclusive Memorial Garden with limited capacity, applicants cannot expect side by side placement of multiple Niches. All Niches in the Memorial Garden will be within the walls of the Memorial Garden. For an additional fee per niche, to cover the costs of engraving, shipping and handling, we can engrave a specific niche with a name and birthdate thereby marking a specific niche. Currently the fee is \$500 per niche.
18. May I place decorations?
- a. Except during the time of inurnment, there will be no decorations, photographs, displays as floral tributes or "ornamentation" shall be allowed in The Memorial Garden. In order to provide a clean, calm, orderly Memorial Garden for all to grieve and remember, CCPC shall remove and dispose of any ornamentation in The Memorial Garden.

19. Will clergy perform a service at the time of inurnment?
- a. A committal service, which shall be explicitly Christian, may be held at each inurnment. One or more members of Pastoral Care, shall oversee both the committal service and inurnment. Subject to Pastoral Care approval, clergy not associated with CCPC and/or family or friends may participate in the committal service. Inurnment may take place absent a committal service.
20. When is the inurnment usually done?
- a. A committal service and/or inurnment will be scheduled during daylight hours and when reasonably convenient to those persons arranging for the committal service and/or inurnment and Pastoral Care. Pastoral Care may refuse a committal service and/or inurnment when it is impracticable to do so and may suggest alternative times and/or days for a committal service and/or inurnment.
21. How will the church and funeral home interact?
- a. At the time of death, the family, funeral home, and the church are in communication with each other. The funeral home will arrange for cremation and deliver the ashes to the family or the church, as directed. The family may make arrangements to pick up the approved urn at the church or have the funeral home pick it up, and either the family or the funeral home will deliver the urn back to the church just before inurnment. The family is responsible for the urn until the time of the inurnment service.
22. Is CCPC pledging to tend the Columbarium in perpetuity?
- a. As long as CCPC exists, it will exercise its best efforts to care for the Columbarium, the ashes inurned, the urns, and the memorial markers. However, the church cannot guarantee that it will be able to continue operations of the Columbarium forever. If the time should arise, for whatever reason, that the Columbarium needs to be relocated, removed, or dismantled, that decision will be made by Session. In the event of the dissolution of the Church and/or Columbarium, the Church will arrange for the transfer of urns, at church expense, to a location and setting deemed suitable by CCPC. You or your heirs will have the right to request a transfer to any other location or setting, but such transfer, including compliance with all state or federal laws or regulations, will be at your expense.
23. Is the scattering of cremains available?
- a. No.
24. May I have my niche inscribed before I die?
- a. Because this is a small, exclusive Memorial Garden with limited capacity we do not believe that pre-inscriptions are necessary. All Niches in the Memorial Garden will be within the walls of the Memorial Garden, but in order to accommodate special requests, we will provide a service to pre-inscribe a niche with a name and birthdate. For an additional fee per niche, to cover the costs of additional engraving, shipping and handling, we will engrave a name and birthdate. Currently the fee is \$500 per niche.
25. What about cremains I already have?
- a. You may have them inurned in the columbarium after completion of the Columbarium Agreement.
26. How are the rules set up?

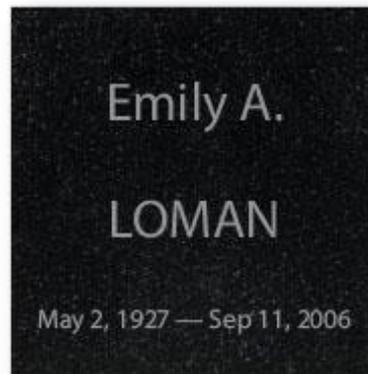
- a. The Session of CCPC will direct the Memorial Garden Administrator to adopted a set of policies and procedures. They are designed to protect the current interests of both you and the church, and to preserve the decorum and appearance of the columbarium over time. From time to time, the rules may be amended as the church or the Session deems necessary.
27. How do I reserve a niche?
- a. Email [columbarium@cherrycreekpres.org](mailto:columbarium@cherrycreekpres.org) letting us know you are interested. Someone will contact you to arrange a face to face meeting.
28. Do I actually own the niche?
- a. No, the columbarium agreement is only a reservation to use the niche. No real property right or interest is created.
29. May I change the list of people who may be inurned in my niche in the columbarium?
- a. Yes, during your lifetime, you may change the list of designated persons by a written amendment to the columbarium agreement signed by the church representative and yourself.
30. What if I decide later not to use the niche?
- a. You may abandon your reservation at any time through written notice to CCPC. No refund will be given.
31. May I sell the niche to another person?
- a. No, but you may reassign the niche to someone else approved by CCPC. You will remain the Applicant. Our policy states: During Applicant's lifetime and subject to Pastoral Care written approval, Applicant may substitute in writing the identity of the Designated Person(s) to be inurned or remembered. The right to substitute the identity of the Designated Person(s) ceases with the death of the Applicant(s) or the surviving Applicant(s). Where two individuals are the Applicants for two urns within one Niche, the written consent of both Applicants, or the legal representatives thereof is required to substitute the identity of a Designated Person(s) designated for inurement within the Niche.
32. May I remove ashes from the columbarium for any reason?
- a. Yes, in the event there has been an inurnment in a niche and the Applicant or immediate family of the person whose cremains have been inurned wish to permanently remove the cremains from the niche, they may do so. However, there will not be any reimbursement in this case and you may not substitute other remains.
33. Must I pay for an entire niche if I am single?
- a. Yes. You may opt to share a niche with another person; if so, please make arrangements separately while jointly completing the Columbarium Agreement.
34. Does the price include cremation?
- a. No, the price does not include cremation. Arrangements for cremation should be made directly with a funeral home or cremation society.
35. What other costs are involved in being inurned at CCPC Memorial Garden?
- a. None. The memorial service, honorarium for minister, musicians, etc. are separate and subject to the church's policies and fee schedules. Currently, there is no cost for a memorial service at CCPC.
36. How much of the reservation fee goes to CCPC operating budget and how much to Columbarium construction?

- a. Initially all the funds go to the construction of the Columbarium. Once construction is complete, reservations for niches and memorial plaques will be directed to a fund to cover future columbarium expenses.
37. If I pay money up front and the Columbarium construction does not go ahead what happens to the funds paid in?
- a. In the event that construction does not going ahead you will be given a full refund.
38. Will the reservation fee of a niche decrease in the future?
- a. No. We are not marketing this to the general public and want a sacred resting place for those connected to CCPC.
39. How does the price of a columbarium niche compare to being buried in a traditional cemetery?
- a. Currently, columbarium niches are less than cemetery burials. More information on these details are available from a mortuary/funeral home.
  - b. A local mortuary currently charges about \$9,500 to reserve a double niche with plaque engraving, urn and opening the niche. Most mortuaries will have additional services for you to purchase that will increase this cost.
40. What does the urn and a single plaque look like? (Examples)

**SAMPLE URN WITH  
NAMEPLATE**



**SINGLE PLAQUE**



41. What does a niche plaque look like for a companion and a shared niche? (Examples – Full birthdates will be engraved on our niches)

### SHARED PLAQUE



### COMPANION PLAQUE

