

Locust Grove Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery Ordinance

This ordinance established and adopted by Locust Grove Baptist Church to be in effect March 1st, 2026. This revision takes the place of and/or supersedes any ordinance, policy, practice or rule, written or implied, prior to this date. Any changes or amendments to management of the cemetery itself *or* to this ordinance must be approved by the acting cemetery committee. Recommendations to the church body for changes to these policies shall only be presented *from* the acting cemetery committee. The rules of this ordinance govern but may be altered on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the acting cemetery committee.

I. Eligibility for Burial

1. Any member*, their spouse and dependent, juvenile unmarried child(ren).
 2. Any unmarried, adult child of a member where said child has a permanent disability.
 3. Any non-member having immediate family (parents, child[ren] or siblings) already buried in the cemetery. (Fee)
 4. Any non-member having extended family (grandparents, aunts or uncles) already buried in the cemetery. (Fee)
 5. Non-members without familial relationships as defined above will not be eligible for burial unless meeting the pre-qualification guidelines below.
 6. Former spouses that are either divorced or legally separated from an eligible person do not retain rights for burial unless meeting the pre-qualification guidelines below.
- * A member is defined as one in good standing, who meets the membership qualifications of Locust Grove Baptist Church and has participated faithfully in its worship and community life for a minimum of one year.

II. Fees

1. Persons meeting qualification No.1 and 2 above will not be charged any fee for interment.
2. Persons meeting qualification No. 3 above will be charged **\$500** fee per plot (except pre-qualified).
3. Persons meeting qualification No. 4 above will be charged **\$1000** fee per plot (except pre-qualified).
4. Fees must be paid at the time of the plot reservation, or in the event of an unexpected death, no later than the day of interment.

III. Pre-Qualification

1. Persons already having plots reserved prior to the adoption of this ordinance (March 1st, 2026) shall retain their right to burial regardless of relationship and any fees will be waived ("grandfathered").

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2. Persons who relinquish a previously reserved plot, then later want to reserve a *new* plot will be subject to the guidelines of the ordinance in place at that time and will not retain "grandfathered" pre-qualification.

IV. Reservation Procedure

1. Applicants must contact a member of the cemetery committee to request a plot reservation. Upon confirmation of the desired plot, applicants will receive a confirmation map of the location, and any applicable fees must be paid along with a signed contract between the applicant and the church. All plots must be approved by the cemetery committee. No graves may be opened without permission from the cemetery committee.
2. Up to two burial plots may be reserved at one time (husband and wife)
3. In the event of an unexpected death when no reservation exists:
 - a. A surviving spouse may elect to reserve an adjacent plot at that time, in accordance with the rules above.
 - b. If the unexpected death is a dependent, juvenile unmarried child, or permanently disabled single adult, both parents may reserve two adjacent plots at that time, in accordance with the rules above.
4. Reserved plots are not transferrable without approval from the cemetery committee. Transfers must meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section I above, including payment of any fees if applicable.
5. Persons who permanently relinquish a previously reserved plot will receive a refund of the reservation fee if applicable.

V. Permanent Monuments (Tombstones) - Refer to drawing "Typical Cemetery Plots and Dimensions Layout"

No stone may be erected without consulting a member of the cemetery committee. Scheduling and installation of stones must adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Foundations:
 - a. Upright tombstones with a base *less than 8" deep* are recommended to have a 4" deep concrete base (footer) underneath – this can be a “dry pour”. The apron of the footer should extend 2"-4" beyond the size of the stone base.
 - b. Upright tombstones with a base *greater than 8" deep* are not required to have an additional foundation but may be requested based on individual site conditions.
 - c. In-ground stones are excluded from foundation requirements.
2. Placement: Stones and grave placement must conform to the dimensions shown per the referenced drawing, unless waived by the cemetery committee.

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3. Stone design: Upright tombstones should be no taller than 48" above the ground (including base). Maximum widths as follows:
 - a. Single stone max width = 3.5 ft wide
 - b. Double stone max width = 7 ft wide
 - c. Triple stone max width = 10 ft wide
 - d. Flat and/or in-ground tombstones should conform to the same width limitations.
4. Temporary markers may be placed to indicate a reserved plot and do not require a concrete base and should be removed upon placement of a permanent stone *or* moved to act as a footstone.
5. A member of the cemetery committee must be present during any setting of markers or engraving of existing markers and requests a minimum of two days' notice to ensure all guidelines above are met.

VI. Flower Policy

1. Flowers must be in a permanent vase or monument saddle during mowing season, March through October. Flowers placed directly in the ground are allowed only per items 2 and 3 below.
2. Flowers placed for our annual Homecoming and/or a burial are allowed to remain for two (2) weeks.
3. Flowers for special occasions are allowed to remain for three (3) days.
4. Flowers that are old or faded should be removed from graves, and if remain past good condition may be removed at the discretion of the cemetery committee.
5. Permanent planting of any type of live plant is not permitted.
6. The church is not responsible for any stolen, lost or damaged (including weather) flower arrangements.

VII. Other Responsibilities

1. All oversight related to location of plots, opening and closing graves, replanting or reseeded of grass shall be the responsibility of the cemetery committee.
2. Locust Grove Baptist Church is not responsible for any accidents or injury sustained during excavation of a grave, installation of a monument or any other associated work. The church does not provide physical assistance in erecting permanent markers (but will assist in placement of temporary reserved-plot markers)
3. The church is not responsible for cleaning or maintaining any monument unless it becomes a hazard. (Adherence to foundation rule No. 1 above will improve long-term stability).

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4. The church is responsible (along with stewardship of the cemetery committee) for the proper upkeep of the cemetery grounds to keep it well-maintained including routine mowing and free from hazards such as uneven surfaces or sinkholes.

Prepared and submitted by 2026 Locust Grove Cemetery Committee:

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Typical Cemetery Plots and Dimensions Layout

Locust Grove Baptist Church January 1, 2026

Dimensions shown are preferred and recommended but may be altered on a case-by-case basis if determined necessary by the cemetery committee.

