Regulations for Burials

The Cemetery of St. John's Episcopal Church

John's Island, S.C.

WHEREAS the population of John's Island and Wadmalaw, Kiawah, and Seabrook Islands has increased due to numbers of people moving into the community and the congregation of St. John's Parish is bound to absorb a reasonable number of this movement of people; and

AND WHEREAS the congregation of the Parish desires the cemetery for the active members of the congregation yet realizes that family members wish to be buried together.

AND WHEREAS proper maintenance of the cemetery is a significant expense to the Parish.

AND WHEREAS the Wardens and Rector of St. John's is desirous of setting up regulations such that the Cemetery Committee and the people of this Parish and Community will have a full understanding of the provisions for the operation of the grounds belonging to the Church

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following regulations be adopted by the Wardens and Rector of St. John's Episcopal Church, John's Island, S.C.:

ARTICLE I

CEMETERY COMMITTEE

A committee of four, a Chairman and three members, shall be appointed annually by the Wardens and Rector to be in charge of the burial grounds belonging to the Church, it being recommended that the same members be reappointed each year so long as there is mutual satisfaction.

SECTION 1. The Wardens and Rector shall set up a fund designated as the "Cemetery Fund" for maintenance and improvement of the cemetery; the Wardens and Rector shall be responsible for expenditures from this fund. The Cemetery Committee's role shall be advisory as to these expenditures. The Cemetery Committee shall determine what fees are to be levied and so inform the Church treasurer who shall be responsible for their collection and depositing in said Cemetery Fund.

SECTION 2. Burial in the cemetery shall not be allowed without the knowledge of at least one member of the Cemetery Committee. If no member of the Committee is available, one of the Church wardens should be consulted, and in such a case he should be authorized to act.

ARTICLE II

APPLICATION FOR RESERVED SPACES

All applications for "reserved" spaces for future burial shall be made in writing to the Committee. The Committee will notify the applicant in writing of the action taken. Copies of this correspondence shall be filed in the Church Office.

All approvals for reserve spaces must carry two of the four member's signatures. Reserved spaces that have been approved will be recorded on a plat of St. John's Cemetery, kept in the Church office and made available for review during office hours. Reserved applications may be reviewed with a member of the Cemetery Committee upon request.

All past commitments (both verbal and written), by the Cemetery Committee will be honored without new charge or change. Commitments after August 20,1997 will follow the new rules.

An individual who has asked for and been granted reserve space(s) shall be given a copy of The Cemetery Rules and asked to sign a statement that he has read and understands them.

SECTION 3. Reserve applications approved by the Cemetery Committee must meet the following requirements:

The applicant is an Active Member of the Parish whose name appears on the Parish Registry as a communicant and who attends and contributes to the support of the Parish. Those members of the Parish who have done this in the past but because of age or infirmity, can no longer do so, shall be exempt from these requirements.

An applicant may be assigned up to eight (8) spaces or the remaining spaces in existing family lots (not to exceed 8 spaces). A contribution of the $150.00 per reserved grave site is required with application. This does not constitute sale of space and title for same shall forever remain vested in the name of St. John's Episcopal Church, and a donation or burial fee in no way applies to the care of any particular grave or spaces. The Committee reserves the right to clear any space, grave or area the appearance of which is deemed detrimental to the general appearance of the cemetery.

As noted above this assignment does not constitute sale of the space and should an applicant or their immediate family cease to be active members of the Parish, they may within 1 year ask for their $150.00 contribution (per unused grave site) be returned and in doing so relinquish future use of the burial site(s). After 1 year the contribution and burial site are forfeited.

SECTION 4. GRAVESTONES ERECTION

A) Only active members may erect a grave stone at a burial site prior to death. A fee of $450.00 will be required should the active member move their letter of membership. (If stone is part of double stone for a deceased spouse, there will be no charge.) Burial at the site will be

permitted even though the member may cease to be an active member but will be required a non-member fee.

B) It is requested that gravestones be erected within 6 months after burial. It shall be the responsibility of the Cemetery Committee to contact the family after 6 months. If it is apparent that there will be no stone erected by the family, the Cemetery Committee shall erect a simple stone. No future burials in a family plot where this occurs will be allowed and all prior fees and spaces are forfeited until the Parish is reimbursed for expenses.

ARTICLE III

BURIAL OF MEMBERS

A) An active member who has reserved spaces may bury members of his immediate family (parents, stepparents, spouse, children, or stepchildren) with no additional fee if they are active members of the Parish.
B) An active member who dies before reserving space shall be assigned a space by the Cemetery Committee using its judgment as to future family needs. A fee of $150.00 is required.
C) These same rules shall apply to cremated remains.

BURIAL OF NON-MEMBERS AND INACTIVE MEMBERS

Inactive members are those that do not attend 3 services at St. John's per year or do not contribute at least $250.00 a year and are not on Parish registry as a communicant. INACTIVE DOES NOT APPLY TO ONE WHO ATTENDS REGUARLY ANOTHER CHURCH, those would be considered non-members.

An active member who is holder of approved reserved space may sponsor burial of a non-member of the Parish in a reserved family site provided he/she has been Baptized and:

A) Has some former association with St. Johns Parish.
(*And*)
B) Is a parent, spouse, child, stepchildren, or sibling of a previously buried member or of the sponsoring member. The spouse of the latter three is also eligible. A $650.00 fee will be required for the use of these prior reserved spaces.

A non-member or inactive member whose family has been buried at St. John's may make application for a space or spaces provided he or she has been Baptized.
(*And*)
A) There are remaining spaces in a family plot. A relationship of parent, spouse, child, stepchild or sibling to previously buried member needs to exist.
(*And*)

B) No active member of St. John's desires to reserve those spaces or has claim to these spaces. A fee of $800.00 is required. The person(s) for whom those space(s) are to be used must be named.
For NON-MEMBERS, a single cremated remain may be interred on existing graves and requires that a stone shall be erected for a $400.00 fee The Cemetery committee reserves the right to approve final placement of all cremated remains.

BURIAL OF BENEFACTORS

The Wardens and Rector of St. John's church may from time to time consider who has been a benefactor to the Parish, either by way of time, service or money. People so elected as Benefactors shall be so informed, their names recorded in the records of the Church office and enjoy the same burial rules as active members for themselves and their spouse.

ARTICLE IV

In the assignment of spaces, the Committee is empowered to determine the size of a space in compliance with the reasonable needs of the applicant and to require such written evidence as they may deem necessary.

ARTICLE V

It will be the policy of the Committee not to consent to the erection of curbs. No trees or shrubs are to be planted anywhere in the graveyard. The Committee will be notified before stones are erected and their approval of the design secured before installation. In no case will approval be granted for the erection of vaults above ground.

ARTICLE VI

The Cemetery Committee may, if the situation is unusual, disregard the above, and using its best judgement, do what it feels is right. In such case, at least two members of the Cemetery Committee shall agree, plus one of the Wardens and The Rector. A written explanation needs to be presented at the next Wardens and Rector meeting by the Cemetery Committee.

ARTICLE VIII

Burials must be performed in accordance with the Book of Common Prayer or other office that has been approved by the Rector or his designated representative.

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