



## LDS Funeral Service Guide for Bishops

Walker Sanderson Funeral Home | [walkersanderson.com](http://walkersanderson.com) | 801-226-3600

*A unified and comprehensive guide for planning, coordinating, and conducting funeral services.*

### 1. Immediate Response After a Death

- Contact the surviving family within 24 hours to offer comfort and assist in planning services.
- Confirm key details: name, time of death, burial or cremation.
- Review General Handbook 29.5 for Church policies on funerals.
- Coordinate early with the funeral home.

### 2. Planning the Funeral with the Family

- Set funeral date, time, and location. Coordinate with building scheduler and Funeral Home
- Help select speakers, musical numbers, and a priesthood holder for the dedicatory prayer.
- Discuss viewing logistics (Relief Society room or foyer). Open or closed casket.
- Organize support from RS and EQ for meals, childcare, etc. during funeral preparation period.
- Confirm attendance of stake presidency; update program before printing.
- Review printed program before printing.
- Avoid open mic sharing in chapel services.

### 3. Preparing the Church for the Funeral

- Open church one hour prior to family arrival.
- Ensure building is clean and bathrooms stocked (tissues, water, paper goods).
- Arrange for keys if building is not your own.
- Set up memorabilia tables if requested, including table cloths.
- Coordinate with organist for prelude/postlude.
- Test A/V equipment and internet if ward is providing livestreaming.
- Assist with home security during services if needed.

### 4. The Day of the Funeral

- Begin gathering the the family 30 minutes prior to start for family prayer (usually held 15 minutes before).
- Bishop conducts the family prayer, then turns the time to the funeral director and goes to chapel.
- Bishop cues congregation to rise as casket and family enter; organist plays during processional.
- Once the family is seated, the congregation is invited to sit.
- Bishop welcomes attendees and follows the printed program as desired.
- Bishop may offer brief testimony after final speaker and before closing prayer.
- Bishop invites the congregation to rise as family exits; He invites the pallbearers to proceed to the appropriate foyer; organist plays postlude.

## 5. At the Cemetery

- Funeral directors coordinate casket and pallbearers.
- Bishop welcomes guests and announces Melchizedek Priesthood holder for the dedicatory prayer.
- After prayer, state: “This concludes the funeral services for [Name]. Thank you for being here.”
- Announce luncheon details if applicable.

## 6. Post-Funeral Considerations

- Continue ministering and follow-up support.
- Delay membership record deletion for several days.
- Stay in contact with the family.

## Funeral Checklist for Bishops

- Contact family within 24 hours
- Schedule funeral and building
- Confirm speakers, music, and prayer participants
- Coordinate with funeral home
- Review printed program and stake involvement
- Organize RS/EQ support
- Prepare church: clean, supplies, AV
- Arrange viewing room and memorabilia tables
- Set up and test livestream (if applicable)
- Coordinate day of funeral with funeral director
- Delay membership record deletion for FamilySearch access
- Maintain follow-up contact with family

## Sample Funeral Program

- Funeral Services for [Full Name of the Deceased]
- Date: [Day, Month Date, Year]
- Time: [Start Time]
- Location: [Ward Building Name and Address]
- Presiding: [Name of Bishop or Stake Leader]
- Conducting: [Name of Bishop or Counselor]
- Organist: [Name]
- Chorister: [Name]
- Prelude Music: [Organist Name]
- Opening Hymn: “[Hymn Title]” – Hymn #[Number]
- Opening Prayer: [Name of Individual]
- Life Sketch: [Name of Family Member or Friend]
- Musical Number: “[Song Title]” by [Performer or Group Name]
- Speaker: [Name]
- Speaker: [Name]
- Bishop’s Remarks/Testimony: [Bishop Name] (optional)
- Closing Hymn: “[Hymn Title]” – Hymn #[Number]
- Closing Prayer: [Name of Individual]
- Postlude Music: [Organist Name]
- Pallbearers: [List of Names]
- Dedication of the Grave: [Name of Melchizedek Priesthood Holder]
- Interment: [Cemetery Name and Location]
- Luncheon to Follow: [Location and Time, if applicable]