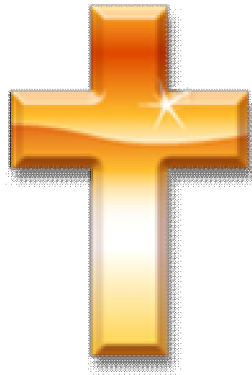




RED DEER LAKE UNITED CHURCH



## WHEN THERE IS A DEATH

### *Planning a Service for Your Loved One*

*At Red Deer Lake United Church, we hope that these comments will be helpful to you as you consider plans for a service to mark the passing of a loved one or family member.*

### **When A Loved One Is Ill**

If there is a serious illness in the family, by all means contact us. Our minister is available to visit your family and have prayers with your family and your loved one at home, hospital or hospice.

### **When to Have the Service**

When a family member or loved one dies, the community wants to pay respects to you and your loved one. The service at time of death seeks to celebrate the life of the one who has died, to comfort the family in their loss and to connect us to the reassurances of our faith. Our experience tells us that families are best served when the service occurs in the early days of the grieving process – usually within a few days or a week of the death.

### **Planning the Service**



The church that has been the regular place of worship for a family is usually considered the best place to hold this service as well. For some families the Funeral Home Chapel is better suited to their needs.

A Funeral Service is when the body or the cremated remains are present. A Memorial Service is when the body is not present. Most of the elements of the service are the same in either case.

Services at Red Deer Lake United Church are led by our minister and our music director. The service will usually include some words of tribute given by friends or family members, as well as music that is meaningful to you. We will also work with you to accommodate requests for other participants to have a place in the service.

In addition to the Words of Tribute, families may also choose to prepare a video tribute as a part of the service.

### **The Funeral Home**

The church and the Funeral Home are experienced at working together to meet the needs of families. You will make arrangements with a funeral home of your own choosing. You may choose which of the various services offered by the funeral home best meet your needs. The support of a Funeral Home is not generally required for Memorial Services held in the church.

### **Service Leaflets**

Service Leaflets may be prepared by the family or by the Funeral Home.

### **Interment**

The minister is also available to preside at a Service of Committal at the cemetery where the casket or the urn is interred with prayer. Most often a Service of Committal occurs on the same day as the Funeral or Memorial Service.



## Memorial Garden

Another alternative for those who are cremated is available at Red Deer Lake United Church. The grounds of Red Deer Lake United Church include a beautiful memorial garden which is available as a place to return cremated remains to the earth. Those whose remains are in the garden will have a memorial plaque placed on the wall of the garden and a page added to the Memorial Garden book. Others will choose to inter cremated remains at a cemetery or to scatter them in the wild. The decision about cremated remains should not be unduly delayed.

## The Reception

If the service is held at the church, the staff and volunteers of our church will assist you with the reception. Generally the food is arranged through a supplier or caterer of your choosing. The church will assist in set up and serving and in provision of tea and coffee.

## Flowers and Memorial Gifts



Floral Tributes are often a fitting way to honour a life that has passed and to express care for the family that is left. After a service families will often take flowers to the hospital, hospice or nursing home

which provided care for their loved one. Flowers left in the church will adorn the sanctuary for our Sunday Service.

The Memorial Fund of Red Deer Lake United Church is grateful to receive and acknowledge

gifts in memory of loved ones. These gifts will be used to provide special items for worship or for the Memorial Garden.

## Personal Support

Grieving the loss of a loved one is a long and complex process. There are resources in the church and in the community to support you in that journey. In the weeks and months after the death, the minister and the Pastoral Care Team are still available for you to call on.

## The Cost

There is no set fee or charge associated with this ministry. Families who wish are invited to make a contribution to help the church with the particularly costs of this ministry and with the ongoing needs of the church budget. As a guideline we invite you to consider the following:

Sanctuary	\$ 200, or
Chapel	\$ 100
Music Director	\$ 150
Funeral Hostess	\$ 75
Sound Technician	\$ 50
Custodian	\$ 50
Minister	family discretion
Reception Hospitality and Beverages	approx \$1 per person

All of the above may be looked after in one cheque made payable to Red Deer Lake United Church.



## Red Deer Lake United Church

Rev. James Hillson

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