EASTSIDE FUNERAL GUIDELINES

INTRODUCTION

If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. For this very reason, Christ died and returned to life so that he might be the Lord of both the dead and the living. (Romans 14:8-9)

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)

At Eastside we seek to care well for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. We believe that as Christians we are invited to grieve well in the face of death and find hope through the life, death and resurrection of the Lord Jesus. We also believe that as we have been extended comfort by a merciful God, we should also shows this to others who are grieving.

If you wish to have an Eastside pastor officiate a funeral, please review the guidelines below and submit the questionnaire to the Eastside office (office@eastside.org.au).

If you wish for support when death is imminent, if you are a member, please contact a pastor directly. Otherwise, please feel free to send an email to office@eastside.org.au.

GUIDELINES FOR FUNERALS

#1. Complete the questionnaire. So that we can help with the arrangement of the funeral, please complete the questionnaire below. Once you have completed the form, a pastor will be in touch with you soon.

#2. Use of church facilities. The church facilities may be available for funeral services, but this is subject to our building and grounds usage policy. Usually, the church facilities will only be used for funerals conducted by an Eastside pastor. If you want a pastor from outside Eastside to conduct the funeral, this must be approved by the elders. Where technology is being used in the service (e.g. photo slide show, specific songs), these should be provided to the church ASAP and at least 24 hours before the service. This enables appropriate checks to be undertaken.

#3. Catering after service. Usually, the family will arrange a morning or afternoon tea after the service. For church members, usually, there are many within the church who will assist with this. But this is not an expectation. We have a local café that we can recommend for help with catering.

#4. Order of service. Although the pastor will work with you in planning the funeral service, you must remember that because we are a Christian church, there will be set things that the pastor will expect. This will include: Bible readings, prayer, and a Bible talk about the Christian hope that is available to all who trust in Jesus. Usually, funeral services will go for no more than 60 minutes. The length of the service does not reflect the significance of the person's life.

#5. Graveside service. Sometimes a family wish to have a graveside service for the committal of a body in addition to the funeral service. Our pastors are happy to help with this, but this will also be done from a Christian perspective and in accordance with these guidelines.

#6. For those outside Eastside. Eastside pastors can conduct funerals for those that aren't part of the Eastside church family. And for those that aren't Christian. But this is done where the pastor agrees to, and you accept these guidelines.

QUESTIONNAIRE

*Note: These questions are in an electronic form that can be found here
https://eastsidecommunity.churchcenter.com/people/forms/1015959

GENERAL QUESTIONS:

Your name:

Name of person deceased:

Pastor you would like to officiate the funeral:

Email address:

Phone number:

Desired date, time and location of funeral:

OTHER QUESTIONS:

What connection do you have to Eastside?

Was the person who died a Christian?

Do you wish to have a graveside service in addition to a funeral service?

Did the deceased person have any expressed wishes for the funeral service?

Which funeral director is looking after arrangements?