# Old St Andrews Parish Church

Charleston, South Carolina 1706



# Graveyard Rules and Regulations

Approved by Vestry of St. Andrews Parish Church March 29, 2021

The following are the Rules approved by the Vestry of St Andrews Parish Church (the "Church") that govern the operation of the Church Graveyard.

# Rule 1: Sales and Ownership

- A. The privilege to be buried in a Full Burial Lot, Small Burial Lot, or Columbarium Niche in the Church Graveyard is granted by a "License for Burial Privilege" (License). Each person intended to be interred in the graveyard shall have a License in their name.
- B. The ownership of a License for Burial Privileges shall be limited to bona fide communicants in good standing of St. Andrew's Parish Church, as defined by the Church By-Laws, and their immediate family members unless approved otherwise by the Rector and Vestry. The Church retains the right to decline to issue a License to any person who is not a bona fide member of the Church.
- C. Purchasing a License for Burial Privileges does not convey title to real property. Burial privileges are not transferrable, saleable, or assignable to any person, except to immediate family by assignment or devise by last will and testament and/or only upon approval by the Rector and Vestry. Should burial privileges be sold or otherwise assigned to any person in violation of

- the foregoing, the Church retains the right to refuse to recognize said assignment.
- D. Should the Licensee at any time wish to relinquish the same, the Church will be given the option to repurchase it at the original purchase price.
- E. All burial privileges shall be paid for in full at the time of purchase. No burial may be made unless and until payment has been made in full. There are no provisions for the acceptance of down payments, partial payments, or reservation payments.
- F. The Church does not provide perpetual care.
- G. The Licensee and their heirs shall be responsible for supplying and updating contact information, including a mailing address, telephone number, and email address, to the Church, as long as they hold the License.

#### Rule 2: Lots

- A. A Full Burial Lot is a 4 ft. x 9 ft. ground space including coping. A Small Burial Lot is a 2 ft. x 2 ft. ground space. A Single Columbarium Niche is 7 ½ in. wide x 7 ½ in. high x 11 ¾ in. deep. A Double Columbarium Niche is 11 ½ in. wide x 11 ¼ in. high x 11 ¾ in. deep.
- B. No more than one casket interment and one cremation interment or two cremation interments are to be made in a single grave lot, without express advance consent of the Rector.
- C. At no time will double-depth casket interments be allowed.

## Rule 3: Interments/ Inhumation/ Disinterment

- A. No burial or funeral may be held in the Graveyard without the prior permission of the Rector.
- B. Burial lots shall not be used for any purpose other than as a place for the burial of human remains or ashes of a deceased person.
- C. The scattering of cremains (ashes) in the Graveyard is prohibited.
- D. Inhumation shall require a vault or grave liner; exceptions can be made upon express advance consent of the Rector. Cremains do not require a vault or grave liner. A masonry stone approximately 12 in. x 12 in. x 1½ in is to be placed in the grave above any cremains interred. Stone will be provided by the Church.
- E. The Church shall charge an Opening/Closing fee for all interments. Fees are established by the Vestry. Fees must be paid in advance of interment.
- F. Dis-interments will not be allowed without permission having been previously obtained from the Rector and proper authority granted from the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control ("DHEC") or its successors.
- G. The digging of a full grave or small burial grave is the sole responsibility of the Licensee family. Only by funeral homes or by arrangements made

with the Church are graves to be dug. Family members or private individuals may not dig graves for ashes. By arrangement, the Church can provide for the digging of graves for cremations for a fee established by the Vestry.

H. The removal of any trees, shrubs, vegetation, or other obstructions as part of or prior to the digging of a grave are the sole responsibility of the Licensee and must be paid for in advance of any burial.

#### Rule 4: Monuments and Coping

- A. All burials are to have a permanent stone grave marker within six months of burial.
- B. All plans for improvements to burials lots, including but not limited to installations, additions, or improvements to coping and monuments, must be submitted to the Church in advance and in writing and must be approved by the Rector.
- C. All monument designs and construction are subject to approval by the Graveyard Committee. Monument designs shall be consistent with headstones and monuments nearby in the Graveyard.
- D. Coping shall consist only of marble or granite and shall be no more than 12 in. in height. Exceptions based on the contour of the land will be considered by the Graveyard Committee. Iron fences and iron trellises are not permitted.
- E. Grave markers or monuments incorporating images or representations of the deceased are prohibited.
- F. Vaults or mausoleums shall not be erected wholly or in part above ground.
- G. Monuments or grave markers for Small Burial Lots for the interment of cremains must be flat stones or brass plaques no larger than 24 in. x 12 in.
- H. Inscriptions on the face of the columbarium niches are limited to the full name of the deceased, dates of birth and death, military or academic rank, or degree if appropriate.
- I. All workers employed by the Licensee for the construction of monuments, coping, or in any other work are subject to the control and direction of the Rector. The Rector may, in his or her discretion, order any worker to vacate the premises if, in the Rector's discretion, the letter or spirit of these Rules are violated, and, at the Rector's discretion, may not be permitted thereafter to work therein.
- J. Monument dealers must set foundations for markers, monuments, coping, etc., in conformity with these Graveyard Rules and in accordance with the trade standard of proper methods of handling and setting of concrete foundations. All work, performed by monument dealers or workers is subject to the approval of the Rector.

K. All earth or rubbish accumulated by a Licensee, or his/her workers, must be carefully removed by the same and immediately deposited at appropriate disposal locations in the Graveyard as specified by the Rector.

## Rule 5: Flowers and Decorations

- A. Cut flowers, bouquets, potted plants, dried arrangements and flowering baskets are permitted at any time, but they will be removed when they become unsightly.
- B. Artificial flowers, decorations, trinkets, lighting, or statuary are not permitted at any time and will be removed immediately by the Church.
- C. The Church is not responsible for the safekeeping of containers for flowers or plants and the containers may be removed by the Church when they become unsightly.
- D. Flowers for the Christmas season may be placed no earlier than December 1 and will be removed no later than January 15, or earlier if they become unsightly. Easter flowers may be placed on the grave no earlier than two weeks before Easter and may remain on the grave for two weeks following Easter, or earlier if they become unsightly.
- E. No decorations shall be placed upon the columbarium in any fashion whatsoever.

#### **Rule 6**: Trees, Flowers or Shrubbery

- A. No trees, flowers or shrubs are to be planted anywhere in the Graveyard.
- B. Whenever, in the opinion of the Graveyard Committee, any trees, flowers or shrubs already situated on a burial lot, by means of their roots, branches, or otherwise, become detrimental to adjacent lots or avenues, or unsightly, or inconvenient to personnel, it shall be the right of the Church to enter the said burial lot and remove said trees or shrubs, or any portion thereof.
- C. Prior notice, if practicable, shall be given to the burial lot licensee with the opportunity for them to remove said shrubs, flowers or trees from the property.

# Rule 7: General Maintenance

- A. The Church does not provide perpetual care. The Church will annually solicit graveyard maintenance funds support from Licensees and heirs, which are expected to participate to the greatest extent reasonable.
- B. The Church provides area lawn care maintenance and cutting of the grass in a lot.
- C. Licensees are responsible for providing maintenance, cleaning, and repair of gravestones or coping.
- D. The Church shall be responsible for the improvements on all those portions of the Graveyard that are not specified for graves.