



## Contract for use of St. Peter's UMC Cemetery

This agreement made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_

between \_\_\_\_\_ and  
St. Peter's United Methodist Church Cemetery Committee is for the purchase of \_\_\_\_\_ burial  
plot(s) numbered \_\_\_\_\_ in our cemetery located on St. Peter's  
Church Road in Hanover County Virginia.

**Organization:** The St. Peter's United Methodist Church Cemetery is owned by the congregation of St. Peter's United Methodist Church, Montpelier, VA. It is governed by the Church Board of Trustees. A Cemetery Committee, consisting of volunteer members of the congregation, is charged with overseeing its operation and administering its funds. The cemetery is for the burial of church members and their families in accordance with the guidelines and procedures set forth in the Cemetery Guidelines and this document.

**Cemetery Upkeep:** The Cemetery Committee shall arrange for regular grounds care, including, but not limited to, grass mowing, tree trimming, and shrub and tree removal.

**Plot Fees:** The plot fee is set at \$1,000.00 for each plot to any eligible family member. Payment of a plot fee only grants the use of a particular plot, it does not in any way convey title to property, establish a lease agreement or in any way deprive, release or impair the Board of Trustees from exercising their due authority and responsibilities for the cemetery property. Furthermore, if and when a payee fails to adhere to these guidelines and procedures, the Board of Trustees reserves the right to cancel any and all agreements.

No one may sell or transfer their rights to any other individual.

**Refunds:** Payments for cemetery plots shall be refunded should the member decide not to use the plot. The member shall notify the Cemetery Chair in writing. Refunds shall be made, without interest, upon written notification that the entitlement guidelines can no longer be met.

**Entitlement:** Cemetery plots shall be assigned only to members of St. Peter's UMC for their personal use or for use by their spouse, their parents, their children, or their grandchildren.

**Procedure:** A person or persons desiring burial in the church cemetery shall contact the Cemetery Chair for plot selection and assignment. All plot fees shall be paid in full at the time of plot assignment.

**Markers:** Following the interment of plots, the plot shall be marked with an appropriate permanent marker denoting family name. The cost of the marker will be in addition to the cost of the cemetery plot. All markers will be placed in line with other markers in the same row. A Cemetery Committee member or designee must be present when grave markers are set in place. The church will not be responsible for vandalism or damage to grave markers and flower vases. It is the expectation of the Board of Trustees of St. Peter's UMC that no offensive language or images will be depicted on the grave marker. The Board of Trustees reserves the right to remove any marker deemed offensive to this sacred burial ground.

**Flowers:** The Cemetery Committee is authorized to remove and dispose of all live flowers from the cemetery grounds ten (10) days following the day of the funeral. Periodically all old and faded artificial arrangements will be removed and disposed of away from the cemetery grounds.

No established plantings, decorative articles, or ornamentations shall be allowed. It is further noted that flower arrangements shall be placed close to the grave markers or headstones so as not to interfere with the care and maintenance of the cemetery. All seasonal adornments will be removed after two months.

**Funeral Arrangements:** Permission to open graves and allow interments or disinterments must be granted through the cemetery committee before any grave is opened. A state approved vault, grave liner, or receptacle shall be required for all interments. When a grave is closed, all dirt will be tamped as the grave is refilled. All excess dirt shall be placed where directed by the Cemetery Chair. The Cemetery Association does not provide caskets, burial vaults, or the labor and equipment to open a plot.

The Committee must be presented with a burial permit in accordance with local and state laws before interment is completed. The Committee will not be liable for the burial permit or responsible for the accuracy of the data it contains or the identity of the person to be interred.

**Records:** Two (2) copies of this contract shall be signed by the person electing a plot and paying the plot fees. One copy shall be given to the purchaser and the other copy will be retained for the cemetery records.

I have read and understand the guidelines within this document

Date \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Purchaser's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cemetery Committee Chair Signature