



NORTHAVEN
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

*Road
to
Resurrection*

“Birth is a beginning and death a destination; But life is a journey, a sacred pilgrimage made stage by stage—from birth to death to life everlasting.”

Rabbi Alvin Fine

The end of your life may not be something you want to dwell on, but as we recognize the presence in our lives of our loved ones, we should consider preparing and sharing information on our personal choices which help us all to live and die with dignity and sanctity.

Preparation for the time when you are no longer here can provide great comfort in leaving your family and friends with guidance on your wishes.

Your family can then grieve without additional decision-making stress.



Lifetime Planning

1. *Write a will* to designate how your assets will be distributed at your death. Notify a responsible party where the will is held to save unnecessary court proceedings and expenses.
2. Sign your *Medical Power of Attorney* which appoints an agent to make any and all health care decisions for you in accordance with your wishes when you are not capable of making them for yourself.
3. Sign your statutory *Durable Power of Attorney* which appoints an agent to perform or undertake actions you could perform if present.
4. Sign your *Directive to Physicians and Family* designed to communicate your wishes about medical treatment, or a do-not-resuscitate order, if unable to make your wishes known.
5. Sign your *Declaration of Guardian in Event of Later Incapacity or Need of Guardian* which designates the person whom you wish to have handle your estate and your personal needs.
6. In the event that you are not legally married, you should sign an *Appointment of Agent to Control Disposition of Remains* so that your partner or a person of your choosing is appointed to that position.

7. Have a burial or columbarium site obtained and make other final arrangements.

8. Sign up for the Willed Body Program, if desired. There is no cost associated. The body will be cremated at no cost to the family upon completion of the study of the body. A brochure is available at Northaven, or you may call.

Willed Body Program at UT Southwestern Medical Center (214) 648-2221 to register a will form

9. Register for organ, tissue and eye donations. This can be done on your driver's license application or renewal. You can also register online at *donatelifetexas.org*.

10. Other organizations can help with final arrangements before death.

Neptune Society

www.neptunesociety.com (800) 637-8863

Southwest Transplant Alliance for Organ Tissue Donations

www.organ.org (214) 522-0255

Funeral Consumers Alliance of North Texas

info@texasfuneralconsumers.org (972) 509-5686

11. Give information and instructions to person/s who will be responsible at your death for

- Obituary
- Service desired
- Cremation or embalmment
- Life insurance
- Company information of current or former employer
- Birth certificate, marriage license and spouse's birth certificate
- Social Security
- Location of safe deposit and storage unit keys

12. Be sure your beneficiary designations are up to date. This applies to your will, life insurance, and IRA's.

13. Consider making a testamentary gift to the Northaven United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund. Gifts can also be made to

- The Northaven Celebration Garden
- Designated or Undesignated gifts to the church, budget or projects.
- Other charitable organizations with which you are connected.



Life After Death

Hopefully the planning you have done will help your family with the following:

1. Contact hospital, 911, Hospice, or doctor. A person must be declared legally dead and proper authorities contacted. After that, the body can be transferred to a funeral home for cremation or burial.

Funeral homes in Dallas who can provide cremation or burial services include

Eastgate Funeral Home - (972) 270-6116

North Dallas Funeral Home - (972) 241-9100

- In hospice care, the nurse can make the call and help make arrangements to transport the body.
- In the hospital, the funeral home can be contacted to take the body (the family is responsible) and some one should pack personal possessions of the deceased.
- If at home, the police must be called first and then the body can be taken to the morgue or funeral home.
- A funeral home can notify Social Security, and Social Security can notify Medicare.

2. Contact family members in person or by phone; don't use email unless absolutely necessary.

3. Contact the church pastor about the memorial service and burial or interment.
4. Gather information for the death certificate and newspaper obituary.
5. Gather information on the funeral and burial wishes. Talk to family about the deceased's wishes.
6. Arrange for support of the family, including transportation, child care, and pet care.
7. Get at least a dozen copies of the death certificate. These can be ordered through the funeral home, or online.
8. Keep a list of deliveries and calls.
9. Arrange for a volunteer to stay at the home while the funeral is being held.
10. Select pallbearers, if desired, six to eight is customary.
11. Contact the Social Security Administration about death benefits. A surviving spouse can get survivor's benefits as early as age 60 - earlier if the surviving spouse is disabled. Children under 18 may also be entitled to survivors' benefits when a parent dies.

Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213

12. Call the Veterans Administration (VA). Surviving spouse and dependent children may be entitled to a small pension if the deceased served in the Armed Forces. The VA will pay partial burial expenses and provide a headstone or marker as well as an American flag to drape over the casket, without charge. If burial is in a national cemetery, the VA will provide a grave site and pay burial costs. You will need form 214B for this service.

US Department of Veterans Affairs (800) 827-1000

13. Notify deceased's attorney, CPA, financial advisor and ask about needed steps.

14. Find out who is the executor of the will of the deceased.

15. Contact banks, credit cards and cancel direct deposits and debits.

16. Contact former employers for benefits resulting from that employment.

17. Notify organizations where deceased held memberships. Some offer memorial services or may have life insurance, while others will return part of dues paid.

18. Collect life insurance policies and call the companies to ask for death claim forms. The beneficiary can choose to take proceeds in a lump sum or spread them out as payments over the years.

19. Contact companies holding retirement plans. There may be money left in them to be paid out to survivors. Like life insurance, proceeds can be paid out in a lump sum or in installments. Tax advisors should be consulted before beneficiaries make that decision.

20. Consult with health insurance company. They may pay some expenses of the last illness.

21. Locate safe deposit box and storage facilities.

22. Cancel subscriptions and redirect mail as appropriate.

23. Do not cash any checks addressed to the deceased.

24. Contact the attorney to have the will read and to see what has to be done in regard to estate settlement.



Funeral Arrangements

One of the most loving gifts you can leave your family upon your death is having arranged for a memorial service and final resting place.

Your plans may include use of a funeral home for burial, cremation, and a memorial service. The tradition at Northaven has been to have a memorial service in the sanctuary. Many of our members chose cremation and inurnment in our Celebration Garden columbarium.

If you are considering using a funeral home, many of the tasks of handling details involved will be done by them. Funeral directors can act as a liaison between you and the cemetery, pastor, hospital and/or other necessary individuals and providers. They may also offer use of a special room or gathering place for visitation held before the actual service.

A funeral home usually provides embalming services to preserve the deceased for open casket viewing and funeral. For some mourners, an open casket viewing provides loved ones with a final physical connection prior to interment. A closed casket can also be provided. Cremation is also an option, and many funeral homes have a crematory on site.

When you have completed arrangements with the funeral home, a copy of the contract should be provided and placed with your will and other important papers.

If your plans involve using a funeral home for cremation and then using Northaven's ministerial staff and columbarium for the memorial service and placing of the ashes in the Celebration Garden, you may want to meet with the Senior Pastor before your death, or your family will want to discuss with him the memorial service and inurnment after your death.

Northaven has its columbarium in the Celebration Garden. An explanation of the Garden and how to participate in its use as an inurnment site either by scattering, burial or placement in a niche is explained on pages 18 and 19.





Medical Power of Attorney, Living Wills, and Do Not Resuscitate Orders

Medical Power of Attorney is a document, signed by a competent adult (principal), designating a person (agent) who is trusted to make health care decisions on his/her behalf should the principal be unable to make such decisions. The Medical Power of Attorney is effective immediately after it is executed and delivered to the agent. It is effective indefinitely unless it contains a specific termination date, it is revoked, or the principal becomes competent. An agent may make health care decisions on the principal's behalf only if the principal's attending physician certifies in writing that the principal is incompetent. The physician must file the certification in the principal's medical record. Agents may not make health care decisions if the principal objects, whether the principal is competent or not.

Do I need a Medical Power of Attorney?

There is a chance in your lifetime that you may be seriously injured, ill, or otherwise unable to make decisions regarding health care. It would be helpful to have someone who knows your values and in whom you have trust to make such decisions for you.

A Living Will is a legal document that a person uses to make known his or her wishes regarding life-prolonging medical treatments. It can also be referred to as an advance directive, health care directive, or a physician's directive. It is important to have a living will as it informs your health

care providers and your family about your desires for medical treatment in the event you are not able to speak for yourself.

Generally, a living will describes certain life prolonging treatments. You, the declarant, indicate which treatments you do or do not want applied to you in the event you either suffer from a terminal illness or are in a permanent vegetative state. A living will does not become effective unless you are incapacitated; until then you'll be able to say what treatments you do or don't want.

These treatments usually require a certification by your doctor and another doctor that you are either suffering from a terminal illness or permanently unconscious before they become effective as well. This means that if you suffer a heart attack, for example, but otherwise do not have any terminal illness and are not permanently unconscious, a living will does not have any effect. You would still be resuscitated, even if you had a living will indicating that you don't want life prolonging procedures. A living will is only used when your ultimate recovery is hopeless.

A Do Not Resuscitate (DNR) order tells emergency medical caregivers that you do not wish to receive life prolonging treatment if your heart and breathing stop. This generally means that you do not want to receive CPR. You can make your DNR instructions part of your living will.

You may contact your local hospital, long term care facility, physician, attorney for more information about any of these options. Be sure to leave copies of all Medical Power of Attorney, Living Will, and Do Not Resuscitate orders with your will and important paperwork. Notify family and physicians where this information can be found.



Guidelines for making a Testamentary Gift to Northaven

Making a gift through a Will or Living Trust

There are three options for making a gift through your Will or Living Trust

- Determine a specific dollar amount you wish to give
- Determine a percentage of the estate you wish to leave.
- Select a specific asset held by the estate, as long as it passes under the will, such as shares of stock held by a brokerage account that passes under your will.

To implement a change to your Will or Living Trust, a codicil to the original document must be prepared outlining your wishes. An attorney

should be consulted to discuss your wishes and prepare the document, which is normally a very simple document that can be prepared quickly with minimal time involved.

Making a gift of an asset with a beneficiary designation that does not pass under the will

If you have an asset that has a beneficiary designation, such as an IRA, 401 (k), Life Insurance Policy or Annuity, this asset will pass directly to your beneficiary.

You can change the beneficiary to Northaven United Methodist Church without making a change to your will. To include Northaven as a beneficiary for an asset of this type, you can request a “Change of Beneficiary” form from the company who holds the asset, such as the bank or brokerage firm who holds your IRA, and then add or substitute Northaven as the primary beneficiary. Many companies now have such forms on their web sites, or you can contact the company directly and request the form.

Please consider designating your gift to the **Northaven United Methodist Church Permanent Endowment Fund**, which was set up specifically for the purpose of receiving testamentary gifts that will grow in perpetuity with the income being used to fund needs of the Church.



Covenant Funds

Celebration Fund and Permanent Endowment Fund

We welcome all contributions donated to the Celebration Fund. These gifts may be designated or undesignated, in honor or memory of someone, and can be put to work immediately in many areas. This fund contains pre-designated categories for projects related to the church building, grounds, furnishings, kitchen, Memorial Garden, music, fine arts, outreach program, Christian education, Lecture Series, youth mission trips, new member outreach, library, scholarships and other projects which are not funded by the operating budget of the church.

A donation may designate an immediate need of the church, an interest of the Donor for a project not funded by the operating budget, or may be undesignated to be used as appropriate requests are made.

Larger contributions are welcomed and encouraged for funding the **Endowment Fund**. This fund is established to provide members and friends of the church an opportunity to make gifts to the church that will become a permanent endowment of financial support and a living memorial. The Endowment Fund is used exclusively for purposes such as

- Experimental ministries

- New outreach
- Creative services for all types of persons
- Special mission projects happening locally and beyond the local church
- Scholarships
- Unusual expenses of any kind for the maintenance, repair , alteration and replacement of the real and personal property owned by Northaven UMC.

The Trustees promote planned giving by members of Northaven through their estate by will or other testamentary gifts, as well as direct gifts of property or assets during their lifetime. Our opportunity to grow in this area is emphasized by our **Covenant Society**, made up of those members of Northaven who have included the church or a designated program of the church by testamentary gifts in wills, trusts or IRA plans. An event in gratitude of these members is held each year.

The Endowment fund is invested with the Texas Methodist Foundation.

Requests for distributions consistent with these mission purposes are encouraged. Please contact the chair of the Covenant Funds Trustees.

Covenant Funds Trustees provide education seminars of life planning issues such as Wills and Estates, Charitable Giving, and Retirement Planning Issues.

Northaven Celebration Garden



The Northaven Celebration Garden was conceived as a reflection of the cycle of life from birth and baptism (the stylized dove on the cross), through life's twists and turns and changes in direction (the labyrinth) to the celebration of the end of the earthly life and the promise of life eternal (mosaic crosses, columbarium and memorial garden). The mosaic tile cross from the old Lecture Lounge was reconstructed on a wall in the Garden, honoring all the classes and theological training that occurred in that room in the old church building. The Northaven logo of a cross extending through the skylight, with all its meaning for diversity and inclusion surrounded by God's grace, is installed in mosaic tile on the columbarium wall. A cantilevered arbor stands over the labyrinth with climbing roses on its posts.

The Celebration Garden is a place for private and community prayer, meditation and unique opportunities for memorial services , baptism, Easter, All Saints Day, weddings and confirmation class training. The Garden was dedicated on November 1, 2009.

How to Participate

Members and friends of Northaven can participate in the garden by

- Making a gift specified for the Celebration Garden
- Donating in honor or memory of a friend or loved one to the Celebration Garden.
- Reserving a niche in the columbarium or space in the memorial garden.

Cost of a Site for Placement of Ashes in the Garden

Current prices

Scattering of Ashes:	\$1,000
Burial in the Garden:	\$2,000
Placement in Niche:	\$2,500 single urn \$3,000 two urns

The cost covers the urns, engraved niche cover or engraved wall plaque.

The Celebration Garden Trustees are responsible for maintaining the Garden, supported by maintenance funding from a separate CG account. They are also responsible for all records and paperwork required and assist in planning and implementing the placement of ashes in the garden.

Celebration Garden Trustees are Jeanne Delphenis, Paul Terrell and Dotti Timmins.

Published by Northaven Covenant Funds Trustees
September, 2013