

GREATER EBENEZER MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Rev. DeNon A. Porter, Pastor

Funeral and Bereavement Support Information

The Solace Ministry assists families by providing support, comfort and help in planning the funeral/memorial service for members and their families. Please contact our Solace Ministry Coordinator, Sister Althelia Billingsley at (323) 687-7110, Monday thru Saturday from 7AM – 7PM, to begin the process of planning. Please know that we walk alongside you in your season of grief. Every effort will be made to accommodate the family's requests and provide a response to the date requested within 24 hours (M-F) from initial contact.

- *Funeral/Memorial Services are provided for current church members and their families at no cost. This includes:*
 - *Use of church for service*
 - *Minister to officiate/eulogize during service*
 - *Repast following the service/burial*
- *Please provide to the Solace Ministry Coordinator:*
 - *Decedent's name*
 - *Date of death*
 - *Date of birth*
 - *Address where condolences can be mailed*
 - *Funeral home*
 - *Contact name and number*
 - *Contact's relationship to the deceased*
 - *Requested date of funeral/memorial service*
- *Services may be scheduled Tuesday-Saturday beginning at 10AM or 11AM.*
- *Special requests for recorded music, choral selections and speakers should be submitted directly to the Solace Ministry Coordinator.*
- *The order of service should be provided to the Solace Ministry Coordinator at least 3 business days prior to the service for approval.*

- *Video presentations must be submitted to the Solace Ministry Coordinator no later than 3 business days prior to the funeral for approval.*
 - *Acceptable formats include PowerPoint and other media formats*
 - *Video should not exceed six (6) minutes in length*
 - *Secular music **will not** be permitted*

Repast

- *A repast will be provided for the immediate family, out of town guests and close friends at no cost.*
- *No outside food will be allowed.*
- *There is a 20 person minimum and 100 person maximum for repasts.*
- *Repasts at the church will begin **no later than 4:00 PM** and last no more than 90 minutes.*
- *Food can be delivered to another location within the local Los Angeles area, if repast is not held at GEMBCLA.*

Resolutions/Tributes

- *Resolutions/Tributes for funerals held at GEMBCLA will be provided directly to family.*
- *Resolutions/Tributes for local funerals not held at GEMBCLA - We send a solace representative to the service who reads the resolution/tribute and gives it to the family.*
- *Resolutions/Tributes for funerals held out of town will be forwarded to funeral home or given to family member attending service.*

For Decedents Who Were Members of Fraternal Organizations

*As a Baptist congregation that upholds the priesthood of all believers, we honor the right of any individual for whom we may provide funeral services to affiliate with any organization of their choosing. We also recognize the good that many of these organizations perform socially and culturally, as well as the deep bonds that are formed therein. Nevertheless, in our sanctuary, **we do not permit rites, rituals, or presentations of any kind by any secret societies**; this includes lodges, fraternities, sororities, etc. We humbly suggest that these organizations perform their rites at the mortuary, or at the graveside, or at another time and location of their and the family's choosing. We also kindly request that the surviving family members make this policy known to the respective organizations **PRIOR** to the service. Any efforts to circumvent this policy during the service will be handled accordingly, and may result in the shutting down of the livestream.*

We sympathize with any inconvenience this may cause, and thank you for respecting our house of worship.