

## **ABINGTON MONTHLY MEETING OF FRIENDS GRAVEYARD POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **FOR WHOSE USE**

The privilege of interment in this ground is reserved for members of Abington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends and others who have an active relationship or association with Abington Monthly Meeting. Before any Graveyard Grant is made, a written application must be submitted and approved by a designated member of the John Barnes Trustees.

### **COMMITTEES IN CHARGE**

As the legal owner of the Meeting, Graveyard and other grounds of the Meeting and School, the John Barnes Trustees sets the charges for the sale of a grant for the right of burial within the Graveyard and sets Policies and Regulations for the Graveyard. The grounds are under the care of the Property Committee for the purpose of seeing that they are cared for. The Graveyard Committee is responsible for setting the charges for opening graves and implementing these Policies and Regulations.

### **BURIAL LOTS**

The right of burial in designated lots may be granted to persons for whose use the grounds have been provided, subject to such Policies and Regulations as may be adopted from time to time.

Three lot sizes are available: a single conventional grave space, a cremation space, and a five-space family plot. The boundaries of each lot are defined by survey and each lot is identified by number. A copy of this record is held by the Trustees. Five contiguous conventional grave spaces purchased at the same time by the same purchaser may be treated as a family plot.

No transfer of a grant shall be made except with the written consent of the John Barnes Trustees, Inc. and a new grant will be issued by the Trustees at the time of transfer if approved.

If no interment is made in a lot for a period of 125 years from the date of grant, the grant may, at the option of the Trustees, be declared null and void and all rights and privileges shall revert to the Trustees (be recaptured) without compensation for such disposition as the Trustees may elect. Unused remainder portions of a multiple space lot are not subject to recapture, but may be returned to the Trustees by surviving family members or legal representatives for future use.

### **SCHEDULE OF CHARGES**

Please contact Abington Friends Meeting for a full list of prices for grave purchases.

The costs for grave opening and closing will be borne by the heirs of the deceased. The Trustees encourage consideration of cremation, as opening a grave during the winter can be expensive. Scheduling for burial must be done through the Meeting.

Because a vault is required for traditional burials, the opening and closing of traditional graves for conventional burial will be handled by the vault company (vault company is chosen by the Graveyard Committee), and the vault company will determine the fee. Billing for traditional grave opening and closing is usually done by the vault company through the funeral director.

The opening and closing fee for burial of cremated remains is handled through our Graveyard Committee.

## REGULATIONS

1. All burials (traditional and cremation) in the Abington Meeting graveyard must be arranged through the Meeting office and/or the John Barnes Trustees and must be scheduled on the Meeting calendar.
2. Single grave spaces may be used for: one conventional burial; one conventional burial and one cremation; or two cremations. A single cremation spot may contain only one cremation remains.
3. Casings for conventional burials must be concrete.
4. The grantee, his heirs and assigns agree to erect on each grave within one year after burial a marker as follows:
  - a) In the conventional burial area (including cremation burials in traditional grave spaces) a marker made of granite approximately 20 inches in width, 10 inches thick, 10 inches above the ground, and 4 inches below the ground. No more than one marker may be erected in a space. Marble markers may be substituted on multi-space lots only where there are existing marble markers.
  - b) In the cremation burial area a flat granite stone (flush with the ground) must be used. It shall be approximately 18 inches in width, 12 inches in height, and 4 inches thick.
  - c) We strongly recommend that markers be purchased through DeChristopher Brothers Monuments & Memorials in Rockledge, PA, (215) 663-1146. DeChristopher Brothers will handle the installation and will bill the family separately. If you choose to use another monument company, an additional fee will be assessed by our Graveyard Committee for the marker to be installed according to our regulations.
5. The name and date of birth and death of the decedent and only such other words as may be necessary for identification may be inscribed on the stone. There may be two names on one stone in the conventional burial area. Additional wording or markings are to be avoided.
6. DeChristopher Brothers (or other monument company), as supplier of the marker, must provide a drawing of the proposed marker so that size and wording can be approved prior to placing an order. No quarry markings or other extraneous markings are permitted.
7. Markers must always be set upon a foundation approved by the Graveyard Committee.
8. In keeping with the simplicity of the Graveyard there will be no display of flags or other markings, either on the grave marker or separately.
9. Planting of bushes, shrubs, or trees is prohibited within the Graveyard area because of the additional maintenance required. Ornaments, decorations, religious symbols, flags and other items are not permitted on graves. Artificial flowers are not permitted on graves. Planting of flowers on graves is prohibited. Potted plants or natural (not artificial) wreaths may be placed on graves, but will be removed according to the schedule of the Property Coordinator. Large and ornate arrangements are discouraged. Loose flowers are permitted. Memorial plantings, such as a tree, may be made in accordance with the Landscaping Plan of the Property Committee, but in keeping with Quaker simplicity, no plaque or marker will be placed near such plantings.
10. Dogs must be kept on leashes in our graveyard, and those walking dogs must clean up waste. We ask that dog-walkers be respectful of grave markers.

Exceptions to these Rules and Regulation may be granted by the John Barnes Trustees upon written application, stating the nature of the exception desired. In the event that an exception is not

granted and the person making the request for exception is not satisfied with the answer, an ad-hoc committee consisting of the Clerk of Monthly Meeting, Clerk of Care of Members, and one member of the John Barnes Trustees will consider the request for exception further, and make a recommendation for resolution. Their decision shall be final.

#### PAYMENT

Payment for grave purchases will be made directly to the John Barnes Trustees, and a Graveyard Grant deed will be provided to the purchaser upon completion of the grave purchase transaction. Checks should be made payable to **John Barnes Trustees Inc.** The full amount of payment for a grave purchase goes to a permanent Fund for maintenance of the Graveyard. That fund is maintained by the Trustees of Abington Monthly Meeting, Inc. If you wish to make an additional gift to this Fund, see below.

#### ADDITIONAL GIFTS TO PERMANENT FUND

Those who desire to contribute additionally to the maintenance fund (the Abington Friends Graveyard Trust) may do so by gift or bequest. The form of a bequest is as follows:

**I do give to the John Barnes Trustees, Inc. the sum of \_\_\_\_\_ dollars to be added to the Abington Friends Graveyard Trust for the maintenance of the Abington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends burying ground, located at Jenkintown, PA.**

Checks should be made payable to **John Barnes Trustees Inc.** and marked for Graveyard Maintenance Fund. Donations for this purpose are deductible for Income or Estate Taxes to the extent permitted by law.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT: RECEIPT OF THESE REGULATIONS

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_