

## **First Unitarian Church of Des Moines**

### **Operating Policies – Memorial Garden**

The Memorial Garden is a special place where members may honor loved ones or find a peaceful place for the interment of cremated remains. It is a living reminder of the contribution of our members – past and present – have made to our church community.

The Memorial Garden Fund is used for the long-term care and maintenance of the garden.

The Memorial Garden is available for the interment of cremains of current or past church members. The cremains must be prepared by a mortuary in a biodegradable cloth bag for interment in a designated area as part of a special commemoration service. Although markers are not allowed, a grid drawing of the garden will be provided reflecting the location of the cremains. A plaque is displayed near the garden, listing the names of those interred. Only the names of those interred will be inscribed. There is no fee for interment of cremated remains. Donations to the Memorial Garden Fund are encouraged in whatever amount the individual's family, or other designee, wishes. Also, cremains may be scattered rather than interred upon request.

A memorial brick or granite paver may be purchased and placed in the walkway through the garden. Either one may be engraved to honor a loved one, celebrate a milestone in someone's life or commemorate a contribution to the garden. Individual monuments are not placed in the Memorial Garden so as to maintain a balanced, respectful and consistent aesthetic and feel in the garden and to afford an equality of treatment of all who are interred there.

The location of the garden is intended to be permanent. If the church should ever move, a symbolic shovel of dirt from the garden and the memorial plaque will be moved to the new site.

The garden is available for small gatherings that include weddings, memorial services, meetings and classes. It is also meant to be used as a place for private contemplation.

Contact the Director of Finance and Administration for information on interment or on purchasing a memorial brick or granite paver. Contact the Office Assistant for reservations to use the garden for an event.