Terms & Conditions Regarding the Placement of Cremated Remains
In
The Reno Garden

Background: The Reno Garden at First Congregational Church in Winchester was created in 2011 to provide a beautiful place on church grounds for peaceful meditation and prayer as well as remembrance of loved ones. The placement of cremated remains takes place on the lower garden level overlooking the pond, known as the Contemplative Garden.

Persons Eligible: The Reno Garden is intended for the use of members of First Congregational Church in Winchester and their immediate families, former members who have moved away and staff. Placement of cremains (cremated remains) of those who have close ties with the church shall be at the discretion of the ministerial staff. We are sorry but we are not able to bury cremains of pets.

Placement Ceremony: When an individual or family wish to have cremains placed in the Garden, the attached application form must be completed and fee paid. In the case of an immediate placement, a date must be arranged with the clergy for a Placement Ceremony. This is a short prayer service during which the cremains are placed in the ground and which may or may not occur in conjunction with a church service. The placement of cremains is done as weather permits.

Fee: The fee includes preparation of the Garden, placement of cremains in the Garden, covering of the hole, the Placement Ceremony, and a contribution to the Reno Garden Fund.
The inscription of the deceased's name on the Memory Bench will be billed separately. And is in addition to the fee.

Cremated Remains: Your funeral home will provide you with a container filled with cremains. The Garden will accept up to 2 cups of cremated remains that have been mixed with a soil neutralizer. The church does not provide the neutralizer or prepare the ashes. Neutralizing kits may be obtained online at letyourlovegrow.com. A small kit holds up to two cups of cremains and costs $95.

Please have the container unsealed so that the ashes may pass into the earth easily. All cremains become a permanent part of the Garden and may not be exhumed or removed by the family after placement. However, the church reserves the right to take any appropriate action regarding the location of cremains if future repair or modifications of the Garden should warrant.

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Markers: No containers or markers are used. Cremains are deposited directly into the ground. Families may wish to provide flowers on the day of internment but must take them home afterward. The Garden & Placement Committee reserves the right to designate the location within the Garden where cremains will be interred.

Memory Bench: The names and years of birth & death for each individual whose cremains are interred are inscribed on our granite Memory Bench. This provides families with another way to honor or visit their loved one. Inscriptions are done once per year.