

# COLUMBARIUM INFORMATION

## Columbarium History

For several years, the Properties Committee and the Board of Trustees discussed the idea of a memorial garden on the church grounds. Former Church Council Chair, Brian Trammell, was very interested in this project and had begun exploring ideas for this project at the time of his death. Memorial gifts for Brian were designated for a fund for a memorial garden. In November 2016, the Trustees established a task force to further research a columbarium and/or memorial garden. In February 2018, the task force updated the Trustees with their progress. The task force recommended a columbarium instead of just a spot to scatter ashes. In 2021, the Properties Committee began consulting with architects and landscape designers on the pricing and process to construct a columbarium. Several revisions were made and the project budget was changed accordingly.

The Trustees have approved this design to include 162 niches with the following cost and Subscriber pricing and recommend the project to Church Council. At the August 23, 2022 Church Council meeting, the members voted to send this project on to a Church Conference, so the membership would have the opportunity to vote.

## Columbarium Cost Estimates (as of 8/3/2022)

Johnson & Galyon	\$288,287 (budget)
CSUMC Contingency	\$25,000
Architect Fees	<u>\$26,000</u>
	<b>\$339,287/162 niches = \$2,094.36 per niche</b>

## Prices until 1/1/2024

Price for Niche with one urn \$2,500\*

Price for Niche with two urns \$2,750\*

(Includes: Engraved Facing Stone, Bronze Urn and Urn identification plate)

Price for Interment of ashes in Memorial Garden \$200

\*Unless otherwise approved by the Trustees, fees will increase 3% each calendar year beginning January 1, 2024.

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **What is the motion before Church Conference?**

The motion from the Church Council is:

*To approve the columbarium project with the design provided for construction in the Church Street UMC courtyard at a projected cost of \$339,287.00.*

- **Who may vote at a Church Conference?**

All professing members who are present may vote. *Book of Discipline, Paragraph 248.*

- **How will the vote be counted?**

Members will register as they enter the nave and receive a paper ballot, on which they will mark "Yes" or "No."

- **How will this project be funded?**

The Trustees will fund this project from one of their undesignated funds. As the niches are sold, the monies will be returned to the Trustee account. A loan will not be procured to fund this project.

- **Should we wait until all of the niches are sold before beginning the project?**

We have a 30 people (18.5% of available niches) who have already committed to purchase niches. There are also several families who have their loved ones cremains in their homes waiting for a structure. Typically, people will not want to hold on to cremains until the project is fully sold. We based a lot of our rules and ideas on the policies and suggestions from other churches.

- **Why has this location been chosen?**

We hired architects and landscape architects to advise us on the location of the columbarium. Our Washington D.C. architects, along with a group of Trustees, looked over our entire campus while they were here working on our Master Plan. They felt this was the most appropriate location in order to maintain the purpose of the space to be a place of contemplation and quiet worship.

- **Will this structure block the view of the stained glass windows of the Nave?**

The current design is a shorter height than the first design presented. It actually will not be any taller than the bushes currently in the courtyard, so it does not block the windows very much at all. (See attachment showing dimensions.)

- **Who should I contact if I have additional questions or comments?**

Please feel free to contact: Dave Collins [davidscollins52@gmail.com](mailto:davidscollins52@gmail.com) or  
Will Johnson [wjohns14@comcast.net](mailto:wjohns14@comcast.net)