

**CONLEY'S CHAPEL METHODIST CEMETERY**  
22150 ROBINSONVILLE ROAD  
LEWES, DELAWARE 19958

**GUIDELINES FOR OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

At Conley's Chapel Methodist Cemetery, we strive to maintain a dignified atmosphere in keeping with the historic setting and reverence of our chapel. The guidelines that follow are not intended as a restraint on your personal liberty, but as a sincere effort to maintain the dignity of the grounds and those who are buried within, while being good stewards in maintaining this sacred place. With that in mind, these Guidelines for Operation and Maintenance have been carefully developed in order to promote proper conduct on the part of the cemetery, lot-owners, employees, and visitors.

**I. GENERAL**

1. All burials are subject to Delaware State Regulations.
2. Access to the Cemetery is from the Chapel parking lot and is permitted only during daylight hours.
3. The Cemetery is not responsible for theft or vandalism within the property.
4. Digging holes, removal of sod, or planting of any kind is strictly prohibited except as necessary by the Cemetery Coordinator or lawn care contractor for grounds care and maintenance.
5. Conley's United Methodist Church reserves the right to enforce and update these guidelines.
6. Buying a plot signifies owners' willingness to abide by these guidelines and to cooperate with Conley's United Methodist Church.

**II. SALES**

1. Sale of cemetery lots to Funeral Directors is prohibited. Further, the sale of cemetery
2. lots is restricted to members of the Conley's United Methodist Church congregation. Special exemptions may be considered by the Church Council.
3. Everyone purchasing a lot must be given a copy of these cemetery guidelines both at the time of purchase and the time of preparing for a burial. Whenever this document is modified, all owners will be notified.
4. Lot owners wishing to return their lot due to changes in circumstances, may submit a request to the Cemetery Coordinator. When approved, a refund of the amount originally paid for the lot will be issued to the owner. A refund cannot be provided for lot corner markers that have already been purchased and/or installed.
5. Lots are indivisible. Upon death of the lot owner, the heirs at law shall inherit the privileges with the same restrictions, limitations and conditions.

**III. ANNUAL CARE**

1. Maintenance care is offered and limited to mowing, trimming, leveling monuments and the ground surface.
2. Costs will be absorbed by the Cemetery as long as funds are available for these purposes.

#### **IV. MONUMENTS AND MARKERS**

1. All stonework requires a concrete foundation except in the “Old Section” where this is not feasible.
2. Locations of and foundations for the stonework are to be arranged through the Cemetery Coordinator.
3. The Cemetery Coordinator has the authority to reject any plan or design for any memorial which, for reason of size, design, inscription, finish or quality of stone is unsuited to the lot or section on which it is to be placed.
4. All corner markers are to be installed flush with the ground level.
5. Fences, railing or other markers are not permitted.

#### **V. FLOWERS AND MEMORIAL DECORATIONS**

1. Potted plants, artificial flowers, baskets, and other free-standing decorations are prohibited during the mowing season (April through October) unless they are placed on or attached to the monument in such a way as to not interfere with mowing.
2. Decorative flags, signs, beer bottles, hardscaping stones and the like are not permitted for safety reasons.
3. Perpetual lights are permitted.
4. Holiday-specific decorations are permitted as follows;
  - A. One week prior until one week after the holiday.
  - B. Artificial flowers, wreathes, mounds, blankets and other winter decorations are permitted from the beginning of Advent (four weeks before Christmas) through Epiphany (twelve days after Christmas).
5. Flags must meet the following criteria;
  - A. Represent a country and be 12”x18” in size or smaller. All other flags are prohibited.
  - B. Flags may be placed on graves on national holidays (*e.g.* Memorial Day, Independence Day, Flag Day, and Veterans Day).
  - C. When flags are placed on a gravesite, care must be exercised so the flag is placed in such a manner that the flag does not rest on anything such as plantings, monuments, etc.
  - D. Flags should be displayed one week prior until one week after the holiday.
6. Flags that are removed by the Cemetery Coordinator will be disposed of in accordance with guidelines established by public law and custom.
7. The cemetery grounds will be cleared of decorations twice a year. Spring cleanup begins March 1st; Fall cleanup begins October 1st. For a family to save decorations placed on a grave, the decoration should be removed prior to these dates; the Cemetery Coordinator will not store or replace any decorations.
8. Any decorations that are not removed by those who place them when they become unsightly (faded, broken) or interfere with mowing, will be removed and disposed of by the Cemetery Coordinator without liability.
9. The Cemetery Coordinator may authorize removal of unsightly flowers and decorations by a third party throughout the year if needed.

The preceding policy guidelines governing operation and maintenance of the Conley's Chapel Methodist Cemetery were adopted by local church action in December 1990, updated in July 1997 and again in May 2020.

**CEMETERY CONTACTS:**

Church Office – (302) 945-1881

Cemetery Coordinator – Louise Finn (443) 223-5149

Cemetery Treasurer – Laura Hill (302) 945-0725