

FAQ – Columbarium Frequently Asked Questions
Palm West Community Church of Sun City West Rev. 10-14-2014

1. What is the Columbarium purpose?

The Columbarium was completed July 2014. It is a facility available for remains and memorialization of the Palm West Community Church family. There are three bays for 72 niches in each bay; one in the center is installed. Additional bays will be installed as the need arises. Each niche is capable of containing two urns. All niches will be faced in color coordinated granite plates suitable for engraving. The same color granite is used on the memorial plaque wall.

2. Who will oversee the operation of the Columbarium once it is ready?

A Columbarium committee will oversee the columbarium and future expansion.

3. Is there a fund to cover future maintenance?

The price for each niche includes a fund for any maintenance.

4. Who is permitted to purchase a niche?

All members and regular attenders to Palm West Community Church may purchase a niche.

5. Is it possible to share my niche with an immediate family member who is not part of the church? The Policies and Procedure provide an exemption procedure.

6. What can be placed on the cover plate of the niche?

Only the engraved full name, date of birth and death. No additional decorations, labeling or insignia are permitted.

7. What is cost for each niche and plaque?

\$1000 is the total purchase price for each double niche which includes all urns and engravings and also covers ongoing maintenance. A single niche price is \$750. A memorial wall plaque is \$250.

8. Is any of the amount I pay considered a tax deduction? No

However, each purchaser should check with his/her tax adviser. Generally, since this is a purchase of a burial site for the individual in advance of need, it is not deductible. However, if the purchaser decides not to use the niche and wishes to donate it back to the church, s/he should be able to deduct the amount paid for the niche.

9. Is there a policy document for operating the Columbarium?

A detailed policy outlining the Rules, Regulations conditions and restrictions is provided and available upon request. This document will be provided to all those who purchase. Our policy has been reviewed by an attorney.

10. What if I purchase a niche but later decide not to use it? Is there a refund policy?

The purchaser could get a refund or receive a donation receipt if s/he wished to give the niche back to the church.

11. Can I reserve a specific location in the niche wall?

Niche selection will be made by the Columbarium Coordinator/Committee at the time of

need. While we would like accommodate each person, the possibilities are very limited.

12. What if my loved ones are placed in a niche and I or my family decide to relocate the cremains elsewhere? Cremains may be removed as provided specifically in the policies since there may be legal ramifications as to who may remove cremains.

13. What would happen to our cremains if for some reason the church no longer exists?

This would be determined by the church leadership and approved by the voting members of the church at that time.

14. Does the county or State permit us to have a columbarium?

The church, as a recognized religious, not-for-profit organization, claims exemption under Arizona State Statutes covering Cemeteries and Columbariums.

15. May I place flowers or other decorations in the columbarium area on a special day?

The policies refer to flowers at the time of internment up to 24 hours. Other requests should be made to the Columbarium committee chair.

16. What happens when the first bay of niches is filled?

The 2nd bay of 72 niches will be inserted prior to the full use of the first 72 bays.