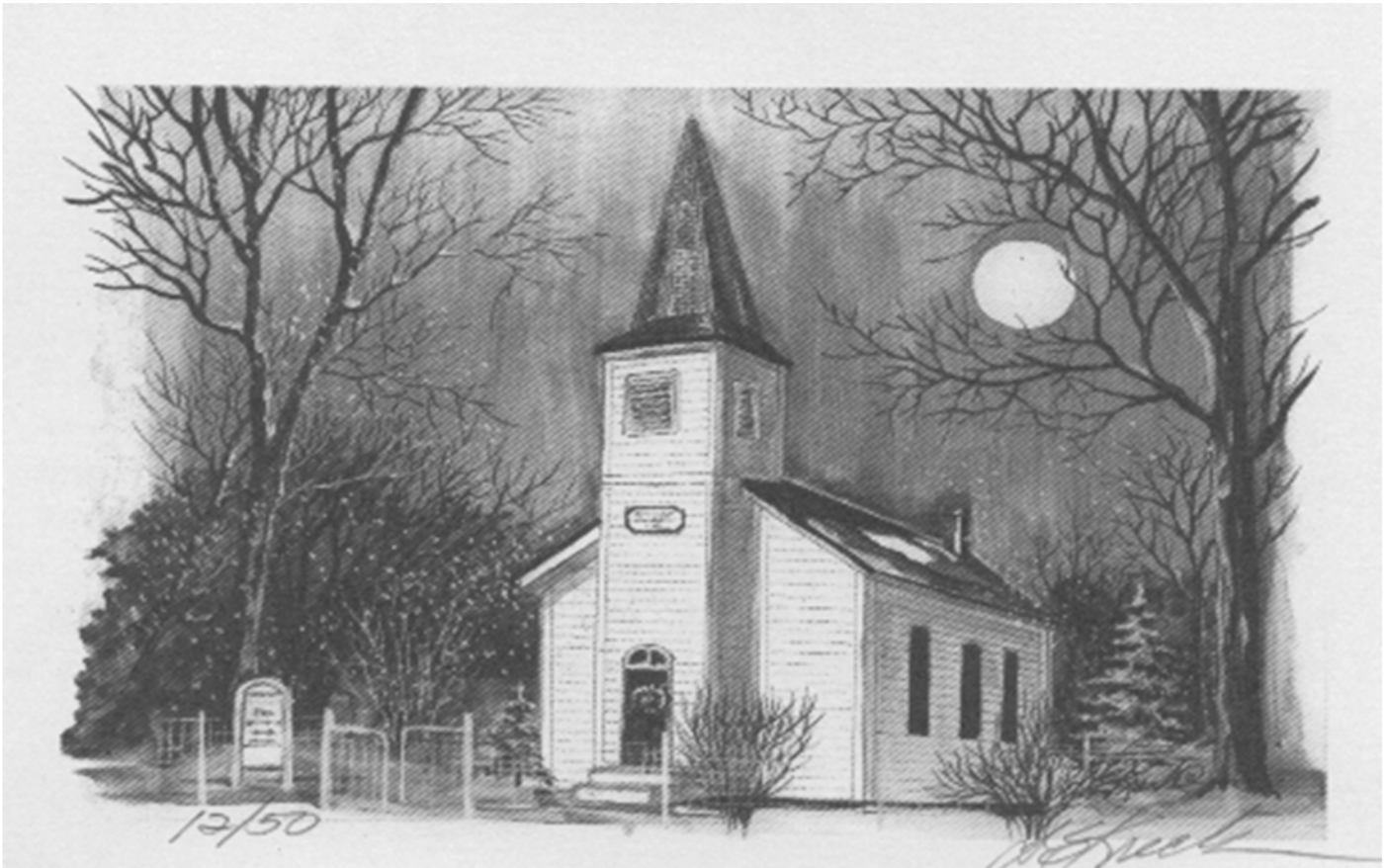


OLD SALEM SHRINE CEMETERY COMMITTEE



**PROVISIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR
MAINTAINING, REGULATING AND PRESERVING
THIS SACRED PLACE**

History of Salem Evangelical Kirchhof

The first verifiable burial in Old Salem Church Yard was that of Edward F. Goldberg, a nineteen-month-old child. His obituary states "Edward was interred on July 29, 1876, in lot 1 at Salem EV Kirchhof." An infant named Lydia Golisch preceded Edward in death by over three years, but she was not interred in Salem EV Kirchhof until after Edward's internment. A woman by the name of Anna Burkhart is buried adjacent to Edward's gravesite (Lot 63) and has a marker designating her as the first burial in the cemetery, however there is no verifiable record of when she was buried.

From 1867 until the completion of the current church building in 1875, the Salem EV Kirche congregation worshipped in a smaller building across the wagon road (now Upper 55th Street East) from the current building. In 1874, pastor H. E. Bunse spearheaded the construction of the current Old Salem Shrine. On April 29, 1875, Charles F. Meyer and his wife Catherine sold a plot of land for \$41 to the trustees. This is the current site of Salem EV Kirche.

The property also provided sufficient area for a cemetery. The initial platting was done circa 1875, with revisions and the addition of lots circa 1886 and 1888. By the time the official cemetery plat was filed with Dakota County on June 8, 1888, there were approximately twenty burials in the cemetery. This plat showed a total of sixty-two "family" lots with all (except those abutting the platted road running along the current lakeshore) measuring 16' x 16'. In 1904, an additional nine 16' x 16' lots were added south of the original lots, bringing the total number of lots to seventy-one. The 16' x 16' lots are subdivided into eight individual burial plots measuring 4' x 8'. These family lots were sold as just that, full 16' x 16' lots for family burials and were the only way lots could be purchased until about 1970. At that time, select lots on the west of the cemetery were subdivided into quarter lots with each consisting of two 4' x 8' individual plots. Since then, several other 16' x 16' lots have also been divided into quarter lots. There are currently nine such lots. Finally, in the early to mid-1980s, several disconnected 8' x 8' lots were sold east of the double fence-gate. In 2014 this area was platted into fifteen 8' x 8' lots (two 4' x 8' individual burial plots) which incorporated the existing earlier lots.

In the one hundred fifty years Salem EV Kirchhof has existed, 175 souls have been buried in the cemetery (twelve were removed): 1876-1900: 64 souls 1901-1925: 36 souls 1926-1950: 14 souls 1951-1975: 18 souls 1976- 2000: 34 souls 2001-2025: 19 souls. The vast majority of those buried in the cemetery were either members of Salem EV Kirche before it closed around 1913 or descendants (and spouses) of those members. Eleven graves marked with an American flag denote the final resting place of military veterans: two civil war, three WWI, four WWII, two Korean and one Vietnam. Old Salem Shrine Yard is preserved and maintained to honor those already buried there and as the final resting place for future descendants.

After Salem EV Kirche closed its doors around 1913, the preservation and maintenance of both the building and cemetery was originally conducted by former congregants and their descendants. It is now third, fourth and generations of descendants beyond as well as some committed non-descendant volunteers who continue that loving devotion.

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Article I

Source of Authority

Old Salem Shrine and Cemetery are owned, and therefore governed by, the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church, a federally registered nonprofit 501(c)(3). Historically, however, the everyday operation, care and functions of Old Salem have been carried out by a Board of Trustees as described in the Trustee Committee Structure and Guidelines Document. The Board of Trustees is sanctioned by, and operates under the guidance of, the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church.

Old Salem Shrine Cemetery Committee draws its authority from the Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees, and through the Board, from the Minnesota Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church. The Cemetery Committee reports directly to the Board of Trustees. Old Salem Shrine Cemetery is operated by the Cemetery Committee under authority delegated by the Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees.

Article II

Definition of Descendant

A descendant is a person who has a direct ancestor (i.e. parent, grandparent, great-grandparent, etc.) who was a member of Salem EV Kirche at any time from its founding to its closing, as evidenced by the minutes thereof or other documentation.

Article III

Committee Membership

The Cemetery Committee shall have a minimum of three members and a maximum of eight members. Of these members, at least two shall be members of the Board of Trustees. All committee members shall be approved by the Board of Trustees.

The Cemetery Committee shall meet annually in April and otherwise as deemed necessary. The Cemetery Committee shall annually agree on one member to be president and one member to record meeting notes. Such notes shall be shared with all Cemetery Committee members and the Board of Trustees.

Quorum: A majority of the members must be present to officially conduct business.

Article IV

Committee Duties and Responsibilities

The Cemetery Committee oversees and effectuates all matters related to the operation and maintenance of the Old Salem Shrine Cemetery.

The duties and responsibilities of the Cemetery Committee shall include:

1. Handling inquiries concerning the sale of lots.
2. Completing (subject to approval by the Board of Trustees) the sale of lots.
3. Working with families/funeral homes or other appropriate entities to mark out the location of all burials, both traditional and cremation.
4. Working with families/memorial companies to mark out the location of all monuments and markers.
5. Advising the Board of Trustees relating to annual contracts for lawn maintenance and other lawn services.
6. Organizing and supervising cleanup and workdays as needed.
7. Ensuring corner lot-markers remain visible. An annual spring search of all markers shall be performed.
8. Ensuring the rules related to plantings and display of artificial flowers, wreaths, etc. are followed.
9. Maintaining the hillside along the lake to prevent brush from taking over.
10. Overseeing the removal of any dead trees on the property.
11. Determining placement and coordinating planting of any new trees or shrubs so as to not interfere with future burials.
12. All other matters related to the maintenance and preservation of Old Salem Shrine Cemetery.

Article V

Sale and Purchase of Lots

Lots at Old Salem Shrine Cemetery are primarily reserved for purchase by and burial of descendants as defined in Article II. Spouses of descendants are also eligible for lot purchase and burial. Non-descendants, who have been a significant part of the Old Salem Shrine community and supportive of its mission, may be approved for lot purchase and burial by a vote of at least three-quarters of the full membership of the Board of Trustees.

The price of lots at Old Salem Shrine Cemetery is determined by the number of 4' x 8' burial plots within the lot. **The purchase price for a 4' x 8' burial plot is \$1,000.** Old Salem Historical Cemetery was originally platted into 16' x 16' family lots which contain eight 4' x 8' burial plots. **The purchase price for a family lot is \$8,000.** Some of the original family lots have been subdivided into 8' x 8' quarter lots, containing two 4' x 8' burial plots. Quarter lots may only be selected from the 16' x 16' lots currently designated as being sub-divided. **The purchase price for a quarter lot is \$2,000.** A more recently platted section of the cemetery is in the fenced area near the double gate. This section consists of fifteen 8' x 8' lots, containing two 4' x 8' burial plots. **The purchase price for these lots is \$2,000.** These lots can also be divided in half to be purchased as **single lots (4' x 8') with a purchase price of \$1,000.**

A lot or plot grants only the exclusive right of interment and does not convey fee title or any possessory real-property interest. No interment shall be made in any lot, except by written consent of the Cemetery, of a person who was not at the time of death, the owner of the lot or a relative of the owner by blood or marriage.

Upon request, the lot or plot owner must provide satisfactory documentation establishing the relationship of the person to be interred, or the eligibility of any transferee or assignee.

Article VI

Burials and Markers/Monuments

No burials shall be permitted without the express knowledge and written permission of the Cemetery Committee. The Cemetery Committee shall designate all burial locations. A copy of the burial permit or certificate of cremation must be provided to the Cemetery Committee prior to a burial being mapped. Only human remains may be interred in the cemetery. (Written communications/copies may be either paper or electronic.)

A single conventional burial is permitted per 4' x 8' burial plot. A concrete burial vault must be used and must be a minimum of 24" below the ground surface. A maximum of four cremation burials shall be permitted per 4' x 8' burial plot (one/two burials in the top half of the plot and one/two burials in the bottom half of the plot.) Cremated remains must be a minimum of 12" below the ground surface. Use of a cremation vault is optional. Burial sites shall be appropriately restored and seeded/sodded either by the contractor who excavated the grave or by the family of the deceased. Purchasers acquire **interment rights** only; title to cemetery land remains with the Cemetery.

Upright monuments and flat markers shall be subject to the following regulations:

1. Design and proposed placement of markers/monuments must get prior approval by the Cemetery Committee. Location for all markers/monuments shall be mapped by the Cemetery Committee prior to installation.
2. Monuments and markers shall be made of granite, marble or bronze only.
3. Markers/monuments shall be set in/on a concrete base. Bases for flat markers shall provide a minimum 3" border on all sides of the marker. Bases for upright monuments shall be at least 4" thick and provide a minimum 3" border on all sides of the monument's base. At least three inches of base material (such as 1/4" minus/trail mix) shall be placed beneath all installations.
4. Only one upright monument may be placed per two adjacent burial plots. Such markers shall be centered on the two adjacent burial plots and at the top (west end) of the plots.
5. For conventional burials, one flat marker may be placed per burial plot. It may be either a headstone or a footstone. For cremation burials, two flat markers may be placed per burial plot. If a single marker is used, it shall be at the top of the burial plot. If a second marker is used, it shall be just below the midline of the burial plot. Flat markers shall be at or no more than 2" above ground level.
6. No marker/monument or their base shall extend outside of the burial plot(s) they are marking. Existing markers/monuments not in compliance with this requirement are grandfathered, but subject (at the discretion of the Cemetery Committee) to relocation to bring them into compliance.
7. No permanent memorials other than markers/monuments shall be permitted. Any such existing memorials are grandfathered.

Article VII

Exhumation

No exhumation/removal of interred bodies or ashes from Old Salem Shrine Cemetery shall be permitted except upon the request of an entity with legal authority to direct the same (i.e. a fully licensed funeral home) or by court order. Unless countermanded by legal authorities, a minimum of seventy-two hours' notice shall be given to the Cemetery Committee prior to any removal. Any such removal shall be in full compliance with all state, county and local laws or regulations. The physical exhumation shall be conducted by a licensed contractor under the direction of a licensed funeral home or legal authority. Any markers or monuments associated with the exhumed body shall also be removed. After allowing for settling, the affected site shall be appropriately restored and seeded/sodded by the contractor who did the removal.

Article VIII

Utilization of Unused Gravesites

For this article only, descendants are children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, etc. of the original lot owner(s).

Burial rights to available gravesites within purchased lots belong to the original lot owner(s) or their descendants. They have the right to use these gravesites for future burials (either full or cremation) in accordance with the stipulations stated in Article VI.

Burials shall primarily be of lot owners/spouses or descendants/spouses. If a lot owner of record is still living, burials of descendants shall be by their designation. If no lot owner of record is still living, descendants/spouses may request burial rights. Burial of a relative who is not a descendant shall require approval by the Board of Trustees.

The determination of burial rights amongst surviving descendants is to be made by the descendants/spouses of the original lot owner(s). Old Salem Shrine/Cemetery assumes no responsibility in such determinations. Descendant families are encouraged to inform the Old Salem Shrine Cemetery Committee of future burial designations so this information can be recorded.

Article IX

Plantings, Floral Arrangements, Wreaths and Other Adornments

All adornments are placed at the owner's risk. The Cemetery Committee may remove, relocate or dispose of any items that become faded, deteriorated or hazardous; interfere with maintenance; or violate these rules, without notice. The Board of Trustees and the Cemetery Committee are not responsible for loss or damage caused by weather, vandalism, wildlife, theft or routine maintenance.

Low-growing annual flowers or perennials (without woody stems) may be planted around markers or monuments. The Cemetery Committee may prune or remove plantings that die, become overgrown or interfere with cemetery maintenance. No shrubs, vines, trees, ground covers or vegetable/herb plantings are permitted.

Fresh-cut flowers and potted plants are permitted but must be placed in appropriate containers. Glass and ceramic containers are prohibited. Flowers/plants and temporary containers should be removed when flowers are wilted. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove and dispose.

Artificial flowers are permitted but should be removed if they become faded or deteriorated. The Cemetery Committee reserves the right to make that determination and to remove and dispose.

Wreaths may be placed from November 15 through March 15. After March 15, the Cemetery Committee reserves the right to remove and dispose.

A single U.S. flag in a designated military-holder is placed at the grave of all veterans. These flags are installed and maintained by a volunteer veterans' organization. No other flags shall be placed at any gravesite.

The sacredness and solemnity of Old Salem Shrine shall be respected. Accordingly, any adornments judged by the Cemetery Committee to violate that spirit may be removed with no notice or reimbursement.

Floral tributes placed for a committal may remain up to ten (10) days, after which they shall be removed.

The Cemetery Committee may make exceptions to these rules. Requests for approval of exceptions must be submitted in writing to the Cemetery Committee.

Written communications/copies submitted to the Cemetery Committee may be via paper or electronic means:

**Old Salem Shrine Cemetery Committee
c/o Amy Nugent
25550 Xerxes Ave
Elko New Market, MN 55020**

info@oldsalemshrine.org
(Use Cemetery Committee in the
subject line.)

This document was developed by the following four members of the Old Salem Shrine Board of Trustees:

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