These guidelines governing the use of the Cemetery Grounds at Stokesdale United Methodist Church (SUMC) were adopted by the Administrative Board and became effective on 09/19/2023. Any amendments or exceptions to these rules must be made and approved by order of the Administrative Board.

1. Plot selection and assignment must be made through the Cemetery Selection Committee.
2. The opening of any graves or setting stones without the knowledge and consent of the Cemetery Committee is prohibited.
3. Burial Plots will be available to members at no charge.
	1. A minor child (18 years of younger) of a member will not be required to pay for a burial plot.
	2. Immediate family of a church member (Spouse, children, parents) that are not members of SUMC must pay a fee of $1000.
	3. A person who is a non-member and has no immediate family connections to SUMC must pay a fee of $1500.
4. The reserving of plots will not be permitted except for the following conditions:
	1. If a member is buried, the plot beside can be reserved for their spouse. If the spouse is a non-member, regular charges will be made.
	2. If a non-member is buried, the plot beside can be reserved for their spouse. If the spouse is a member, no charges will be made. If the spouse is a non-member, regular charges will be made.
	3. If a non-member child still living at home precedes parents in death, plots may be reserved for the parents. Non-member charges will be made.

**NOTE**: Any other exceptions must be approved by the Cemetery Committee AND the Administrative Board on a case-by-case basis.

1. All foot-stones and reserved grave-markers will be placed at ground level. Curbing, railings and permanent vegetation (trees, shrubs, etc.)are prohibited.
2. A copy of these guidelines will be given to the family of the deceased member. If deceased is a non-member, requirement of payment must be understood and payment received before grave is opened.
3. Purchase and upkeep/cleaning of all grave markers are the responsibility of the family of the deceased member.
4. All fees paid for grave purchase will be deposited into a Perpetual Cemetery Care Fund for the upkeep of the Cemetery.