

**Cemetery Policy
Board of Directors
Congregation Emeth**

This document provides guidelines for the ritual that takes place at the Emeth cemetery. It does not address the administrative function. It was the decision of the Ritual Committee that the board should appoint an individual oversee the administrative aspect of the cemetery and be the liaison with Habing and the congregation.

This policy recognizes that although the cemetery is a Jewish community cemetery Congregation Emeth has the responsibility of guiding the religious aspect of the cemetery. Congregation Emeth is a Reform congregation and since it is the only Jewish congregation in the South County area, the membership encompasses people who come from a broad spectrum of backgrounds. In addition to the community it represents Judaism in the South County. In trying to keep within the Reform guidelines while not offending any of our members or Jews in the community the following guidelines are proposed with regard to the cemetery

These ritual guidelines are divided into five basic questions.

Who is eligible to be buried in the Emeth Cemetery section?

The criteria used should be the same as the criteria used for determining membership in the congregation. Article II section 1 of the By Laws states "Any person of the Jewish faith, or any person seeking to be associated with those upholding the Jewish faith, eighteen years of age or older, may be elected to membership upon approval of application by a majority vote of the Board of Directors present and voting." These criteria as outlined in the By Laws would refer either to the individual to be buried or the family of that individual.

How traditional should the cemetery be?

We should not attempt to meet strict Orthodox burial practices because such a course would not be in keeping with the needs and the wishes of our congregation. This was in keeping with the proposal of not excluding someone from being buried in the cemetery. In this way, if the cemetery was not traditional enough for some people those individuals may choose to exclude themselves.

Who may perform the service at the cemetery?

A rabbi should be involved in the service. Although this will usually be our rabbi, it might not necessarily be the case since this is a community cemetery. If the family are not Emeth members, they may desire another rabbi to officiate. If the person being buried is not Jewish, the family may use a clergy from another faith. However, that clergy must coordinate with the rabbi of our congregation to assure that the service is appropriate for a Jewish cemetery. The rabbi or, in the absence of the rabbi, the ritual

committee must approve of any non-Jewish religious service. A person who is not clergy may officiate at the service but only in consultation with and with the approval of the congregational rabbi or, in the absence of the rabbi, the ritual committee. If the person officiating at the service is not a rabbi, it is recommended that the service should have some Jewish elements.

What symbols and wording may be displayed at the cemetery?

The only religious symbols, religious quotes or other religious writing that will be permitted to be displayed will be Jewish symbols, Jewish quotes or Jewish writings. There may be non-religious symbols, quotes or writings on monuments or markers. Symbols, images, quotes or writings that might be deemed offensive will not be permitted. Designs for markers or monuments must be approved by the rabbi or, in the absence of the rabbi, the ritual committee, before they are placed in the cemetery.

Is burial of cremated remains permitted?

Yes.