

PINE LEVEL METHODIST CEMETERY PROPOSED RULES AND REGULATIONS

Adopted:

Section I: DEFINITIONS

- A. **OWNERSHIP:** Ownership is defined as rights to interment in a plot for which interment has been approved. A cemetery lot owner's rights are contractual and subject to these rules and regulations. One who is granted interment rights for a lot in the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. does not acquire ownership of the soil. He/she acquires only a right of interment therein which has been designated as a privilege.
- B. **CEMETERY PLOT:** The term "plot", is an area of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment; five feet by ten feet.
- C. **CEMETERY LOT:** The term "lot" shall apply to an area consisting of more than one interment plot. A cemetery lot shall consist of two or more interment plots.
- D. **INTERMENT:** The term "interment" shall mean the permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by cremation and inurnment, entombment, or burial.
- E. **LOT MARKER:** The term "lot marker" refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or plot.
- F. **MARKER/HEADSTONE:** A marker/headstone is a stone or flat plaque either flush or above ground that is inscribed with the name, date of birth, and date of death of the person that is interred in said plot. (minimum size is 8" x 16")
- G. **MONUMENT:** A monument is a stone extending above ground, usually inscribed with the family name, only.
- H. **MAUSOLEUM:** A mausoleum is an external free-standing building constructed as a monument enclosing the interment space or burial chamber of a deceased person or persons.
- I. **MANAGEMENT:** The term "management" shall mean the person or persons duly appointed by the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees for the purpose of conducting and administering cemetery affairs.

- J. MEMBER: Member shall mean an individual that is a member of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc.
- K. IMMEDIATE FAMILY: The immediate family is described as follows: spouse, parent, grandparent, children, stepchildren, and grandchildren of the original lot owner(s). The term is also to include "great" to the above where applicable.
- L. THE CEMETERY: The Pine Level Methodist Cemetery.

Section II: CEMETERY POLICY

1. Although there are many lots within the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery that were existing before the writing and adoption of these rules and regulations, no lot or plot owner shall be exempt from adhering to the current or future rules and regulations or bylaws/policies of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery.
2. Issuance of interment rights shall be made by the cemetery management in accordance with the policies of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc.
3. Each plot or lot must have an officially approved "owner" who bears the responsibility of adhering to the policies of Pine Level Methodist Cemetery.
4. Ownership of a plot or lot cannot be transferred without receiving the approval of a majority of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees.
5. Owners of plots or lots are encouraged to erect a border wall that shall extend no more than one foot beyond the included burial plot or plots. Filling in the walled area with accepted materials that restrict the growth of grass or weeds is also encouraged.
6. It is required that every plot have a minimum of a marker/headstone that is inscribed with the name, date of birth and date of death of the person that is interred in said plot.
7. No monument may be installed in such a fashion that it extends beyond the boundaries of the designated lot or grave, or that will interfere with future grave openings or the movement of the Cemetery maintenance equipment.
8. No improper effigies or markers or monuments bearing offensive inscriptions shall be permitted to be placed in or upon any part of the Cemetery. And if any such monument, effigy, or any structure whatsoever, or any inscription be placed in or upon any plot, the

Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to enter upon such plot and remove the offensive or improper object. If the removal of such objects incurs any costs, the interment right owner shall be liable for any and all costs.

9. Mausoleums are permitted. They shall be no taller than enough to entomb (1) body so as no more than (1) body is entombed per plot. Owners of mausoleums are required to use the minimum space required for the erection of said mausoleum
10. No interments of a body other than that of a human being will be permitted.
11. Cremated remains may be inurned and interred or distributed within the area of the plot.
12. Each plot is limited to a maximum of three (3) cremated remains each.
13. All non-cremated interments shall be enclosed in a sealed cemetery vault.
14. New gravesites shall be cleaned of dead flowers, wreaths, etc. within fourteen (14) days of the interment. Debris should be hauled away or placed in the cemetery trash containers.
15. Trees, ornamentals, or other large vegetation shall not be planted within lots.
16. Interments shall be limited to immediate family members as defined in these rules and regulations.
17. Interments are expected to be consistent with the Christian roots and reputation of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery.
18. Interments will not be subject to demographic restrictions.
19. Owners of lots that are larger than is now needed are encouraged to return part of this space to the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery for use by others.
20. Owners or other immediate family members or friends are expected to repair damaged markers and erect markers on the sites of currently unmarked graves. Without this being done, the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery reserves the right to have such markers minimally repaired or erected.

21. Owners, family members, friends, and others are encouraged to contribute to the funding of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery. Funds are sorely needed to provide and maintain perpetual care to assure the existence of this cemetery.
22. Individuals and the needs of individuals vary greatly. Policies of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery are subject to exceptions by securing approval of the majority of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees.
23. Changes that are needed to the By-Laws of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. before the annual meeting of the membership and other business that is usually conducted at the annual meeting of the membership may be conducted by other means (email, telephone, etc.) in lieu of waiting for the next annual meeting.
24. Provisions of these Rules and Regulations that appear to be in contradiction with the By-Laws of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. shall be deemed as being correct until a voting of the membership for clarification can be conducted.
25. RESPECT: It is of utmost importance that there should be strict observance of standards of honorable conduct in the cemetery. Therefore, all persons within the cemetery should avoid conduct unbecoming a sacred place, such as:
 - Loud or boisterous talking
 - Idling or loafing on the grounds
 - Peddling or soliciting the sale of any commodity within the cemetery
 - Consuming of or possessing alcoholic beverages or other drugs on the grounds
 - Placing of signs or notices or advertisements of any kind within the cemetery
 - Bringing firearms into the cemetery; except by military escort, accompanying a veteran's funeral, or attending memorial services.

Section III: MAINTENANCE PRACTICES, RESPONSIBILITY & LIABILITY

1. Landscaping and maintenance of the Cemetery shall be under the direction of the Cemetery management.
2. Maintenance contracts and schedules shall be set forth by the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees.
3. The Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc. Board of Trustees assumes the responsibility for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds. It is however expected of family members to maintain inside the lot in which their loved one is buried.

4. The Pine Level Methodist Cemetery assumes no responsibility for damages to gravesites, copings, monuments, markers, etc. that may occur while preparing for a burial in another plot or while work is being done to another plot/lot or from any act of God that may occur.
5. It shall be the responsibility and liability of the funeral home, grave digger, monument company, or any other such company or person who is working in the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, to repair, replace or make good any damages to any other lot/plot that may occur as a result of a mistake or oversight on said person's part.
6. Bottles, toys, figurines, wired flowers, and other objects that might create a mowing hazard will not be permitted during the mowing season on areas that are subject to mowing.
7. Flowers are welcomed at any time of the year in the cemetery. It is however the responsibility of the family member or whomever placed the flowers to remove them before they become unpleasant or offensive to view. (an eyesore)
8. It shall be the responsibility of the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery Board of Trustees to assure that the Cemetery is adequately insured for liability and any other perils deemed feasible.

Section IV: REMOVAL Removals of bodies from graves in the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery whether for the purpose of relocation or for any other reason shall be arranged by a licensed funeral home director and shall be done in accordance with the requirements or the statutes of the State of Alabama. Fees for such services, as well as any damages that might occur to adjacent lots, will be the sole responsibility of the lot owner or lot owner's heirs.

Section V: SACRED DUTY The Bible, common sense, common decency, and respect for our loved ones and our fellow man, lead us to conclude that it is a "sacred duty" to respect and maintain the burial place of those that have gone on before us. "If only you would hide me in the grave...and then remember me." Job 14:13

As a priority to the Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc., it is our wish to provide a well-kept, perpetual, reverent resting place for your loved ones and for ours. The maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery are funded entirely by donations and love gifts. We invite every family with ties to this Cemetery to help with its upkeep, and we offer you an opportunity to give your love gift or donation. You may even choose to do so on an annual or monthly basis.

Please mail your gift to:

Pine Level Methodist Cemetery, Inc.

593 Pine Level Loop

Ramer, AL. 36069

NOTE! Any changes or new adoptions to these cemetery rules and regulations can be found on the Pine Level Methodist Church website at www.pinelevelmethodist.org and they will always be considered as the official document.

CONTACT: