

Guidance for Funerals

March 17, 2020 at 10:51am

Posted on Facebook by David Gambrell

How should congregations handle funerals in this time of social distancing? The PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship sought guidance from Thomas G. Long, author of *Accompany Them with Singing: The Christian Funeral* and *The Good Funeral: Death, Grief, and the Community of Care* (with Thomas Lynch), and provides the following guidelines based on his response. At the time of death, have a very small group of family accompany the body/ashes to the place of interment. Once people are gathering in public again, have a memorial service that begins with recounting the story of the earlier interment. The body of the deceased is honored and accompanied; concerns about public health are met; and there will one day be a time for a wider, public witness to the resurrection.

More information from the National Funeral Directors Association that may be helpful:

https://www.nfda.org/covid-19/fbclid/iwar0qhejcbqm2suc00d5wz7ldq5ghfauxzupaghua3xtqg6k06xrzk_apw

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