

Have You Thought About ... ?
questions to consider sometime before a death,
for you and those who care about you

A Resource from Leaside United Church
Spring 2018

Do you have a will? Does it need to be updated?

Do you have a Power of Attorney for Personal Care (medical/health care decisions) and a Power of Attorney for Property (financial decisions)?

Have you considered signing up to be an organ donor? <https://beadonor.ca/>
Have you talked to your family about your wishes?

Who should be notified of your death (family, friends, church, other groups)?

Have you chosen a funeral home? Have you considered pre-paying?

Where would you like to suggest for donations made in your honour?

What do you want to happen to your body?

- Casket burial?
- Embalming?
- Cremation and burial?
- Cremation and scattering ashes?
- Cremation and urn kept by loved ones?
- Natural burial / green burial?
- Donating your body to science?

Where will burial or scattering occur? Have you purchased a plot?

What factors matter to you in making this decision?

- Comfort (what do you feel comfortable with?)
- Cost (how much do you want spent?)
- Creation (how will your choice impact the environment?)
- Connection (how is your choice related to those you care about and their choices?)

Have you preferences for the coffin or urn (if applicable)?

How will other people be able to remember you? How will you help create opportunities for others to share and grieve? Will this be one time and place, more than one time or place, or nothing at all?

- Visitation?
- Small family service?
- A church funeral, memorial or celebration of life service?
- A reception following a service?
- A service by a graveside or when ashes will be scattered?
- A remembrance on the anniversary of the death?

Where do you want this/these to happen (church, funeral home, own home, elsewhere)?

Funerals are often soon after the death, with the body or ashes present.

Memorials or Celebration of Life services may or may not have ashes present, and can happen at any time. Some people choose to hold this a few weeks or even months later so that significant people can be present. Graveside (or “interment”) services could happen directly following a funeral, soon after or much later. Sometimes they need to wait until spring or summer when the ground is not frozen.

Would you want a visitation, funeral or memorial service to be: open casket? Closed-casket? Urn present? Urn not present?

Do you want to use the church's pall?

Do you want flowers?

We also have a resource “Planning for a Funeral, Memorial, or Celebration of Life Service” where you can write down thoughts about the service itself.

Have you talked to someone about your wishes?

At the time of the death, please notify the minister for pastoral support and to discuss dates and times. Please also contact the office for an up to date copy of our “Funerals, Memorials, and Celebration of Life Services: An Overview for Family and Friends” with information about fees, caterers, and other practical details.