Makefield/Yardley Friends
Cemetery Committee

Policies and Requirements for
Makefield Yardley Friends Burial Grounds

The Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee (the "Committee") is the operating committee of Makefield Monthly Meeting and Yardley Friends Meeting jointly holding responsibility as Trustees for the Makefield Yardley Friends Burial Grounds (the" Burial Grounds"). Burial Plots may only be reserved by or for members, long-time attenders, family, or affiliated individuals of Makefield Monthly Meeting, Yardley Monthly Meeting or other Quaker Meetings. Exceptions may be granted by the Committee, and individual determinations may be made.

The Burial Grounds is located at Makefield Monthly Meeting, 877 Dolington Road, Newtown PA 18940. The entrance is at the South Gate of the Burial Grounds. The Burial Grounds are divided into sections:

Section A is located immediately to the right inside the entrance gate,
Section B is located immediately to the left inside the entrance gate,
Section 1 is located on the left at the far north,
Section 2 is located on the left between Section 1 and Section B,
Section 3 is located on the right at the far north,
Section 4 is located on the right between Section 3 and Section A,

Only Sections 2 and 4 are currently open for purchase of Burial Plots.

Choosing the Burial Plot / Purchasing the Burial Plot (Burial Certificate)

Any person wishing to acquire a Burial Plot should contact one of the Burial Grounds' Liaisons (i.e. Committee members). Availability of Burial Plots and personal preferences for Burial Plots will be discussed and may be augmented by in person viewing available Burial Plots. Once a location is selected, a Burial Certificate should be requested from a Burial Grounds' Liaison and your check made out to **Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee** for the required contribution amount should be sent as directed by the Burial Grounds' Liaison. Upon completion of this process a Burial Certificate will be issued.

Choosing the location of a Burial Plot is based on the anticipated method of interment. The contribution to the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee shall be made to secure the purchase of a Burial Plot. Contribution rates are determined at 3 category prices:

- $ 300: Members of Makefield Monthly Meeting or Yardley Monthly Meeting,
- $ 450: Members of Quaker Meetings other than Makefield or Yardley Monthly Meeting,
- $ 900: Non-members (Attenders of a Quaker Meeting/Quaker Adjacent Individuals).

Burial Plots withing the Burial Grounds are 3 feet 6 inches wide by 7 feet in length and accommodate one casket/coffin or up to two cremated remains.

Arranging for a Burial

The arrangements for the burial and cost of the burial are separate from the purchase of the Burial Plot, and the arrangements and costs are borne by Purchaser or Purchaser's designee. An administrative/grave opening fee of $200, for research and recordkeeping, measuring and marking the gravesite, coordinating with the funeral director, gravedigger and monument company, is due at the time the burial takes place. The fee shall apply to each burial

in the Burial Plot and shall be made payable to the **Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee** for deposit into its fund.

A State authorized Disposition/Transit Permit (Burial Permit) or Certificate of Cremation -- which are different from the Burial Certificate issued by the Burial Grounds -- is to be received by the Burial Grounds' Liaison on or before the time of any burial.

Traditional Casket Burials/Cremation Burials

For all traditional casket/coffin burials the family must employ the services of the Committee-approved gravedigger with payment arrangements for the gravedigger fees ***are due before the interment, or at the time of interment, as agreed to with the gravedigger.***

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Burial Certificate,
- All caskets/coffins must be enclosed in a concrete vault, the cost of which is the responsibility of the Burial Plot holder/family.

For all cremation burials with an Urn, the family must employ the services of the Committee-approved gravedigger with payment for the gravedigger due at the time of interment.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Burial Certificate,
- Concrete vaults are not needed for urns, but concrete vaults are permitted,

For cremation burials without an urn.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Burial Certificate,
- If only *ashes that are not placed in an Urn* are to be interred, then the family may take responsibility for the burial themselves.

For each of the various types of burial, as noted above, 30 inches of ground cover rules are applicable and must be adhered to. All burials should have a member of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee present at the interment.

Nontraditional/Naturalistic Burials

An area has been set aside for Nontraditional/Naturalistic burials (also known as Green Burials) in Section 4, Rows 12 and13. Burials in this area must meet the following requirements to conform to a more naturalistic interment.

- Family/Responsible-Party must possess a Nontraditional Certificate of Burial Right,
- Casket and any other shroud/covering must be of a natural material,
- No embalmed or cremated remains are allowed,
- No vault may be used,
- Minimum burial depth of 4 feet to maintain at least 30 inches of ground cover,
- Family/Responsible-Party or Undertaker must provide a plan of action for excavation, backfill, graveside set-up and grave restoration (mechanical digging equipment may be used if requested by the Family/Responsible-Party).

All burials should have a member of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee present at the interment.

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Transfer of Burial Permissions

Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee as Trustees retains ownership of the Burial Grounds and Burial Plots. Burial permission may not be resold or transferred without written approval from the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee. Burial permissions are granted for a period of 30 years; these permissions shall be deemed abandoned and reverted to the Burial Grounds if no interments are made within this time frame. These permissions can be extended for an additional 30 years through arrangement with the Burial Grounds' Liaisons.

Families who wish to make a separate donation toward the upkeep and improvements of the Burial Grounds may consult with the Burial Grounds' Liaisons or the Clerks of the Makefield Monthly or Yardley Friends Meeting.

Grave Marker/Monument Guidelines

Grave Markers/Monuments should be installed once the ground has settled (approx. 6 months-9 months) but within one year after burial, however, a Grave Marker/Monument is not required. The maximum number of Grave Markers/Monuments is 1 per Burial Plot. Careful consideration of the implications of future burials should be made at the time of Grave Marker/Monument purchase.

Each new Grave Marker/Monument shall be on a poured concrete base foundation at least 12 inches deep and shall extend at least 2 inches but not more than 4 inches beyond the Grave Marker/Monument. Such base foundation shall be flush with the ground. The cost of the base foundation and the Grave Marker/Monument are the responsibility of the Purchaser of the Burial Plot.

- Any upright Grave Marker/Monument must be no more than 18 inches high, 6 inches thick (front to back), and 18 inches wide.
- Any flat Grave Marker/Monument must be no more than 12 inches high, 12 inches thick (front to back), and 18 inches wide.
- Any sloped Grave Marker/Monument must be no more than 18 inches high, 12 inches thick (front to back), and 18 inches wide.
- Grave Markers/Monuments covering 2 plots may be double the width stated above (maximum 36 inches).

Grave Markers/Monuments should be simple in form, consistent with other surrounding Grave Markers/Monuments and must be set on an appropriate foundation base as noted above and which meets current Grave Marker standards for accommodating the Grave Marker/Monument. Natural stones such as granite, marble or limestone are permitted in all sections. All base foundations and Grave Markers/Monuments shall be installed by a Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee approved contractor and are your responsibility and paid for in advance.

Coordination of Grave Marker/Monument placement and changes to existing Grave Markers/Monuments takes place between the monument company and the Burial Grounds' Liaisons, who will ensure that the company chosen is in possession of Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee Policies and Requirements. All Grave Marker/Monument designs must be reviewed to ensure compliance with current practices.

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Plantings and other Tributes

In keeping with Quaker testimonials of simplicity, equality, and stewardship (i.e. respect for the earth), fresh flowers are welcome but plastic flowers, flowerpots, and solar lights are not permitted. Trees and shrubs are not permitted to be planted on individual Burial Plots. Fresh-cut flowers will be removed after a reasonable length of time as determined by this Committee.

Wreaths and other small seasonal decorations may be put out for holidays provided they do not contain any plastic or other non-biodegradable material. Wreaths and seasonal decorations will be removed after a reasonable length of time, approximately 30 days past the holiday.

The American Legion places metal flag-holders on the graves of those who were conscripted or chose to participate in armed conflicts and flags are placed in them throughout the year. Flags are removed at the discretion of the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee.

The Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee has oversight of the Burial Ground with Burial Ground Liaisons coordinating all aspects of activity. Burial Grounds Liaisons, together with the Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee, shall have the authority to waive all or any portion of these Regulations and Policies at their discretion.

On behalf of Makefield/Yardley Friends Cemetery Committee

Signed ____Jerry Taylor_____ Date: 02/01/2026
Committee Clerk: