



June 2023
GSS Funeral Policy

From The Desk of Our Senior Pastor

Dear Greater Family,

We Greet You in Divine Love and Kingdom Purpose.

On the behalf of myself, Elder Jasmine & our Overseers, we are so very grateful for each and everyone of you. Thank you for the love and support you have given to leadership. As your Senior Pastor, it is necessary that I revisit and even *reimagine* some important policies and procedures within our ministry.

Relevant to the Funeral Policy of Greater St. Stephen, we will continue to uphold the Church's Policy and Procedures for Funerals: you must be an active tither and supporting member of the ministry to be permitted to have a Funeral Service at the church. For those GSS members who may be experiencing financial hardship or setback, please, place a letter on file with the church office concerning your status to dhwilliams@gssmin.org. A copy of the GSS Healing & Visitation Manual can be found on the church website at www.houseofgreater.org/memberservices.

To all GSS members reporting the death of their mother, father, sister, brother, children and spouses, and to all nonmembers reporting the death of a GSS member, please call 504-244-6800. If an extended family member of yours has transitioned, your information will be forwarded to the Intercessory Prayer Ministry. Under-staffing has been a great post-pandemic challenge, so we pray that you will lend us your patience. Our team of volunteers go The Extra Mile to serve families, and are often managing multiple Home Going Services simultaneously. Moreover, PRAY! ...the Lord will send skilled laborers to partner and assist in this area.

We will continue to evaluate the details of each homegoing celebration and determine scheduling according to our staff/personnel and the family's needs. Please note, there have been and may be times when our facility will be leased to host funerals or services which require a spacious edifice, as well as times when pastors whose buildings are inoperative may lease our building under the church policy regulation.

Finally, after prayerful/careful consideration, in order to properly repurpose our staff, we are temporarily unable to offer Morton Hall to you for rental. This includes, but is not limited to: repasts, memorials, birthdays or any other celebrations or gatherings.

In closing, we are grateful for your continued support of the ministry. Be assured that we are committed to serve this area with excellence and compassion, when the need arises.

Pastor Rob

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WE ARE PROUD TO BE A FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST CHURCH

