

# FUNERALS

A Service of Death and Resurrection



Women gather near the casket of United Methodist Bishop Abel T. Muzorewa in Mutare, Zimbabwe, in May of 2010. Some 5,000 people attended Bishop Muzorewa's funeral. Photo by Tafadzwa Mudambanuki, UM News.

► “The United Methodist Service of Death and Resurrection and Service of Committal focus on the proclamation of the Christian hope in the resurrection of the dead and in Christ’s resurrection as pledge for that hope. Within these services United Methodists also acknowledge death, support family and friends in their grief, remember the deceased, and pledge to continue to be a source of strength and comfort to all who mourn.”

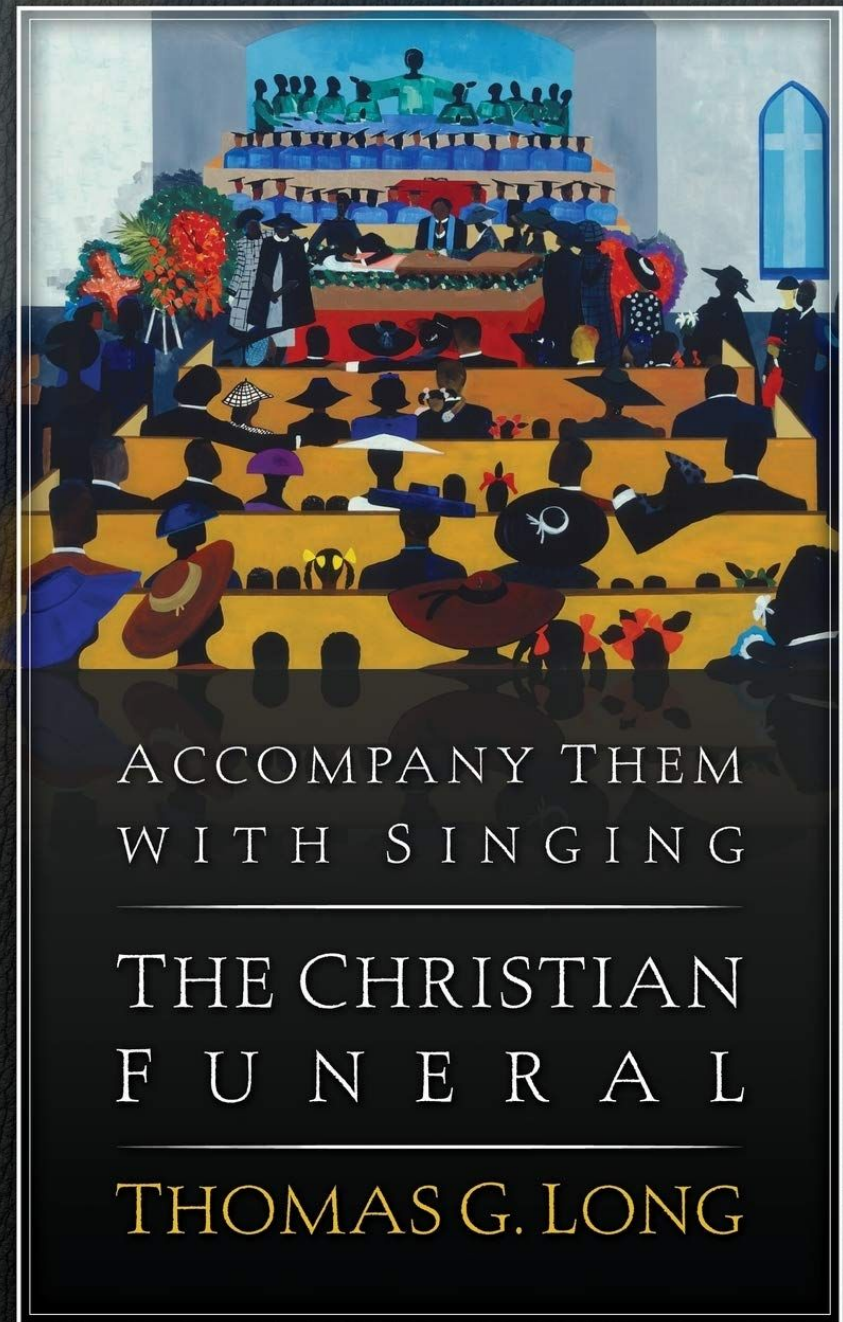
- <https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-what-is-the-purpose-of-a-christian-funeral>

[HTTPS://WWW.UMC.ORG/EN/CONTENT/ASK-THE-UMC-DEATH-AND-RESURRECTION](https://www.umc.org/en/content/ask-the-umc-death-and-resurrection)



Long claims that, ultimately, “A pastor, no matter how wise or pastorally sensitive, cannot alone make a ‘good’ funeral. A good funeral is something the people of God must do together” (122). The faithful funeral, Long argues, includes four key elements.

- ▶ a holy person (the deceased),
- ▶ a holy or sacred place,
- ▶ holy people (the believers),
- ▶ and a holy script (the gospel narrative).



## ► Preservice visitations:

- You are a Pastor of a community. There is no such thing as small church pastor. The church to which you are appointed may have only a few gathered on Sunday Morning, but every pastor is also appointed to a community.
- Ask for favorite hymns, scripture passages,
- Steer the conversation about the persons' faith
- Have a draft of the bulletin with you, so that when you talk about the funeral, the family can see the various parts.
- If you are to preach a sermon, proclaim the gospel! Proclaim resurrection! Proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ!

“A HOLY PERSON/PEOPLE”



# “A HOLY PLACE”

- ▶ Church or Funeral Home or other? “Church if at all possible..”
- ▶ Can be in someone’s home. Can be in the mountains, or alongside a lake or river. Make it a Holy place! Bring as many symbols of the church as possible. Wear a robe. Bring a larger cross. A table. A chalice. A paten.



- ▶ Funeral Homes and the Directors in the area
- ▶ Chaplains of area hospitals, rehabs, and extended living facilities
- ▶ Local Sheriff or Fire Department (Chaplain?)
- ▶ Other voluntary associations (VFW, American Legion)
- ▶ Have their numbers/contacts on hand so that if the family needs their services, you can direct them.

PEOPLE/GROUPS TO KNOW

- ▶ “Primarily intended for the burial into the ground, but can be adopted for cremation or interment of ashes, burial above ground or at sea, or for donation of body for medical purposes”
- ▶ “Military and/or fraternal rites are an addition to the service, only approval of the pastor and usually at the end of the service.”

A SERVICE OF COMMITTAL

- ▶ I will usually follow up with the family 1 month (Take Holy Communion), 6 months and on the anniversary. Letting them know that I'm thinking of them and praying for them
- ▶ Continue to support the family in their long-term grieving process
- ▶ All Saints Day!

FOLLOW-UP



▶ BOW 139

▶ UMH 870

PRACTICE!

Several thin, parallel white lines of varying lengths and orientations are located in the bottom right corner of the slide, creating a modern, abstract graphic element.