

The Historic Blawenburg Cemetery

at the intersection of Route 518 and Route 601
Montgomery Township



RULES AND REGULATIONS of the Blawenburg Reformed Church Cemetery



For more information about the cemetery visit

www.BlawenburgChurch.org

If you have further questions or want to inquire about availability of plots, please contact the Administrator at the Blawenburg Reformed Church Office.

609.466.1832

BlawenburgChurch@gmail.com



Blawenburg Reformed Church

in service to the risen Christ since 1832

424 Route 518, PO Box 266, Blawenburg, NJ 08504

The enforcement of all Rules and Regulations is entrusted to the Blawenburg Church Cemetery Board (hereafter known as The Board). Any situation not covered in these Rules and Regulations must be presented to The Board for review. The Rules and Regulations of The Board supersede the wishes of grave owners.

These Rules and Regulations are intended to help sanctify the living memory of those laid to rest within the Cemetery and create an environment within that awakens faith and brings consolation. Their enforcement will assist in protecting the Cemetery, creating and preserving its beauty and ensuring the interest and safety of all concerned parties.

Adopted May 2016
Blawenburg Reformed Church Cemetery Board

I. Purchasing a Grave

- i. An *individual grave site* is defined as a plot measuring four feet by eight feet. A *monument plot* is defined as two, four or six adjacent plots. A *lot* is defined as eight plots.
- ii. Payment must be made in full prior to interment. The purchaser will be issued a Deed for the Right of Interment in the Blawenburg Reformed Church Cemetery. It is a legal document giving the “right of interment” in the designated grave, not a certificate of ownership of property. The Blawenburg Reformed Church owns the land and is responsible for the maintenance. It reserves the right of first refusal on any resale or transfer of plots.
- iii. The Board or its designee will charge an opening and closing fee at the time interment is made. Pre-payment of this fee is not accepted. These fees are subject to change by The Board.
- iv. Plot owners shall not allow interments to be made in their plots for remuneration; nor shall any transfer, assignment of rights, etc. be valid without the authorization of The Board.

Cost for plots and interment fees are listed separately and may be obtained from the Blawenburg Reformed Church Office. Pricing is subject to change.

V. Responsibility of Contractors for Interment and Grave Site

- i. At the time of a burial the designated contractor who has prepared the grave site is the person responsible. The removal of funeral flowers, the grading and leveling of the site, and grass seeding of the plot is expected to be completed in as timely a manner as possible.
- ii. Foundation footings and the placement of headstones and monuments are the responsibility of those individual contractors. To avoid any misunderstandings those contractors must adhere to the guidelines and inspections set forth by The Board.
- iii. All concerned should be aware that weather and seasonal conditions will affect the above work.

Cemetery Hours

The cemetery is open from dawn to dusk, except by special permission of the Board.

Additional Notes

The Blawenburg Reformed Church Cemetery has been designated a Historical Cemetery. The cost of its preservation is ongoing. Tax deductible contributions are welcomed and encouraged.

The Blawenburg Reformed Church reserves the right to modify these regulations as required without advance notice.

- vii. No one may pick any flower, break any branches, or remove, injure or cut any tree, plant or shrub that is not on their plot.
- viii. The removal of any property, flowers or plantings belonging to another individual is considered theft.
- ix. Due to safety regulations, the placing of crushed stone, wood chips, shells or similar materials on the graves and flowerbeds is prohibited. Copping, curbing, fencing, hedging or bordering of any kind can also cause a safety hazard during maintenance of the grounds. Such items could be hurled through the air and strike visitors and employees alike and thus are prohibited. They will be removed and disposed of by The Board.
- x. The spreading of ashes, fertilizer, or any other material on plots either to stimulate or retard growth is not allowed.
- xi. The Board prefers natural flowers and plants throughout the year when possible. As an alternative, quality silk flowers are permitted as well. Plastic flowers will be removed.
- xii. Potted plants may be placed on a grave according to the following guidelines: clay, wooden, metal, glass jars, boxes, urns or tubs are prohibited. Only fiberglass or plastic pots 10" or under in diameter and 6" high or under will be permitted for potted plants; biodegradable is preferred. All other containers will be removed and disposed of by The Board. It is recommended that plants be removed from pots and planted directly into the ground.
- xiii. Cut natural flowers are permitted provided they are placed in an approved, sturdy container. Due to the nature of vases, The Board is not liable for theft or damage under any circumstances whatsoever.
- xiv. If flowers exhibit discoloration, fading or deterioration, The Board will remove and dispose of them.

II. General Rules and Regulations

- i. All plots conveyed by The Board for burial purposes shall be used for no other purposes than as a place of burial for the human dead.
- ii. Caution should be used while walking through the cemetery grounds. It should always be presumed that the ground is uneven and the granite flush markers are slippery. The Blawenburg Reformed Church expressly disclaims liability for any injuries sustained while on Cemetery grounds.
- iii. Perpetual care of the Cemetery is always a concern to prospective purchasers. Perpetual care fees are included in the cost of the graves at the time of the original purchase. The Church welcomes contributions to the Cemetery Preservation Fund.
- iv. No person will be allowed to do any work upon the Cemetery ground without the prior approval of The Board. Any and all work to be done at the Cemetery is under the supervision of The Board and/or its designee and should be submitted to The Board in writing.
- v. Plot owners who improve their plots will be required to leave them in good order, and the same with adjoining plots and grounds disturbed by such work; otherwise they will be put in order at the expense of such owners.
- vi. To insure the proper regulations of the grounds, the grade of all plots may from time to time be determined by The Board, as they may deem best for the interest of the Cemetery.
- vii. The Board reserves the right to have all graves dug and make all excavations for monuments, headstones, curbing and posts. Prices may from time to time be determined by The Board to be paid by the plot owners or person ordering such interments or excavations.

III. Headstones & Monuments

- i. The owner of each plot shall have the right to erect any proper stone with the permission of The Board.
- ii. Headstones are not to be larger than 36" wide, 4" thick and 36" high. Foundations for headstones must be level and shall not be less than 24" deep. They must be at a minimum 2" wider than the headstone on all sides. Anything larger than a headstone must have prior approval by The Board.
- iii. *Veteran Markers* - The grave of any eligible veteran may be furnished with a bronze, marble or granite, 24" by 12" flush marker. All markers should have a ground level cement foundation not less than 6" deep. The foundation must be 2" wider than the marker. Department of Veteran Affairs application forms can be obtained from your funeral director. The Board must approve all markers.
- iv. *Graphics & Inscriptions* - If anything more than name, date or birth & death is to be inscribed on the monument the family must have prior approval of The Board.
- v. If any monument, effigy, structure, or inscription placed in or upon any plot is determined by The Board to be offensive or improper, The Board shall have the right, and it shall be their duty, to enter upon such plot and remove the said offensive or improper object(s) at the cost and expense of the person or persons who ordered the headstone/monument to be installed.
- vi. All foundations shall be installed under the supervision of The Board or their designee, who is required to inspect all work done according to regulations.
- vii. An inspection by The Board is required before placement of any monument, effigy, or structure whatsoever.

IV. Plants and Decorations

- i. Planting of any nature on a plot must be done in compliance with Cemetery Rules and Regulations and at the certificate holder's risk. The Board is not responsible for any theft or vandalism that may occur. The maintenance of plants, including weeding, is the certificate holder's responsibility. All withered plants and decorations should be removed. The Board reserves the right, without prior notice, to remove any items in order to maintain the best appearance of the grounds, should the owner fail to do so.
- ii. A monument plot may have plantings only on the front side of the monument. The planting area may not exceed the width of the monument, extend more than 12" in front, nor exceed the height of the monument. No planting of any kind will be permitted on the back or sides of the monument unless it is a back-to-back grave.
- iii. Planting is not permitted on individual plots, with the exception of annual flowers. All summer plantings (geraniums, marigolds, begonias, petunias, etc.) are permitted between May 1st and November 1st.
- iv. No new planting of trees and shrubs is allowed. No hedges of any kind will be planted.
- v. All existing shrubs should not exceed the height of the monument or infringe on an adjacent plot. Any shrubs that become unsightly or start covering the front of a monument or exceeding above guidelines will be removed.
- vi. No trees now growing within the lot shall be removed without the consent of The Board. If any trees or shrub, situated in any plot, shall, by means of their roots, branches or otherwise become detrimental to the adjacent lots or avenues or dangerous to passersby, The Board may enter the plot and remove the obstruction(s).