

BURIAL GROUND RULES AND REGULATIONS

**OF THE CONGREGATION OF CLONDUFF PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, COUNTY DOWN,
DULY ADOPTED AT A DULY CONVENED MEETING OF THE SESSION AND COMMITTEE OF
ABOVE CONGREGATION HELD ON 20TH APRIL 1998**

1. Members of the above Congregation whose names are on the Roll of the Congregation, and whose membership is fully paid up, according to the regulations of the committee, will receive, where necessary and when available, the privilege of burial ground.
2. These rules and regulations are binding on all members of the Congregation.
3. No person shall have any right or interest in the burial ground save as hereafter provided, unless they come within the provisions of clause 1 hereof, and save as above the mere fact that any person has ancestors or relatives buried in the burial ground of this congregation shall not of itself give any rights or interest in said burial ground. Any other person granted the right of burial by the Graveyard Committee shall pay the annual sum of Ten Pounds.
4. The management of the graveyard of said Congregation shall be entirely in the hands of the Congregational committee which may appoint from it's members a Graveyard Committee, with full congregational powers, to act for it in all graveyard matters. No grave shall be opened, nor headstone or enclosure erected, nor inscription placed on any memorial, nor shrub or plant laid or planted in any part of the burial ground, without the previous written sanction of such Graveyard Committee as evidenced by the hand of their Secretary. (*See footnote)
5. No risk nor responsibility in connection with the erection of headstones or opening of graves or other work permitted by the committee to be undertaken in the burial ground, or in connection with damage to the monuments or mementoes, shrubs or plants, shall rest on either the Congregational Committee or the Graveyard Committee, or on the Church Trustees, and the Graveyard Committee alone will have the right of appointment of gravedigger. A minimum fee of Fifty Pounds for opening a grave shall be paid to the grave digger by the person permitted to exercise the right of burial.
6. The burial space permitted on the granting of privilege of burial shall be entirely in the hands and granted at the discretion of the Graveyard Committee, who, in so deciding, shall consider the necessity of the family concerned as regards burial, and in exercise of their discretion the decision of the Graveyard Committee shall be final and binding.. The space allotted to any member for burial rights must not exceed two grave widths, except by special permit. Headstones, memorials, enclosures, (*See footnote) shrubs, etc. erected with the sanction provided for in clause 4 hereof must be erected only inside the space allotted for burial. Every new grave must be sunk at least six feet where practicable and not more than two coffins shall be placed in each grave, the last coffin to be not less than two feet six inches from the surface of the ground.

7. Permits for burial evidencing the sanction of the Graveyard Committee, though ordinarily required under clause 4 to be signed by the Secretary of the Graveyard Committee, may in cases of emergency be signed by any member of the Graveyard Committee inside the conditions and the limitations provided for by these rules and regulations.

8. Any act, matter, or thing done in the graveyard contrary to clause 4 hereof shall be an act of trespass, and if any memorial of any kind, plant, shrub etc., be erected or planted contrary to clause 4, those responsible for the erection and planting of same must remove same on demand, and in default thereof the same may be removed without notice being given to anyone by the Graveyard Committee or their agents, and without responsibility by such person or persons removing same for any loss or damage occasioned by such removal.

9. In the event of any person who is at the time of application a member of a Congregation of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, but who is not a member of this particular Congregation, desiring the privilege of burial such member must apply to the Secretary of the Graveyard Committee, and if granted the necessary permit for burial under clause 4 or 7 hereof such person will thereupon be bound by these rules and regulations as if such person were a member of this Congregation, and on the granting of such application for burial rights the permit for same may be limited or restricted either as to monetary payment or otherwise as in the absolute discretion of the Graveyard Committee seems proper.

10. Any member of this Congregation having burial rights under these regulations shall have no further rights of burial on ceasing to be a member of this Congregation, unless a minimum upkeep of Ten Pounds per annum is paid, and in that event the ground to which burial privilege has previously been granted shall continue to be the property of the Congregation, and in all respects subject to these rules and regulations.

11. The decision of the Graveyard Committee shall be final and binding in all matters arising out of these rules and regulations, and also in the case of all disputes as to burial rights, burial sites or memorials etc., which disputes must be left in all cases to the decision of the Graveyard Committee.

12. Funeral services in the graveyard as in the Church shall be conducted only by the Minister of this Congregation, or by some other person with his sanction, or in the absence of the Minister, with the sanction of the other members of the Kirk Session.

13. The Graveyard Committee shall have power at all times to make any necessary improvements or alterations in the graveyard, such as removal of trees or bushes, or the restoration of slanting or leaning monuments.

14. On the granting of burial rights to non members of the congregation as hereinbefore provided the person to whom such burial rights are granted shall be liable to pay to the Graveyard Committee the sum of One Hundred Pounds.

15. These rules shall come into operation and be effectual as from 1st May 1998.

April, 20th, 1998

S.J.McKnight (Secretary)

* At a meeting of the above Session and Committee on 29th June 2004 it was proposed and duly adopted that the erection of enclosures around graves would no longer be permitted. Memorials should be in the form of headstones only and permission for erection of same should be sought from the aforesaid Session and Committee prior to any erection work being carried out.

June, 29th, 2004

S.J.McKnight (Secretary)