

Manual Available for Home-Based Funerals

A nationwide group of home funeral advocates has compiled and published a manual and study guide for home funeral committees called “Undertaken with Love: A Home Funeral Guide for Congregations and Communities.”

It is available for downloading online (free), or by ordering a \$15 printed copy at Lulu, both accessible at the website, www.homefuneralmanual.org. The generous copyright allows unlimited copying for non-commercial purpose, and permission to alter the content to reflect state and local laws about home funerals.

The intended audiences are:

- The families themselves
- Congregational committees that support home funerals for their members
- Pastors and other spiritual leaders contemplating a home funeral ministry
- Secular social groups that form to support home funerals for their members

In a study guide format for six weekly or monthly self-training sessions, the book describes how to start a home funeral committee; how to research and identify your legal rights, options and responsibilities; how to handle, bathe and transport the body; and how to sustain an effective home funeral committee. It points to additional resources for training and information.

The authors include Donna Belk of Austin, TX; Wendy Lyons of Lake Orion, MI; Margalo Eden of St. Augustine, FL; Holly Gilbert of Rochester Hills, MI (graphic designer); Gere Fulton of Columbia, SC; Joyce Mitchell of Orem, UT; Ann Harr of Circleville, OH; Michael Rulison of Raleigh, NC; and Holly Stevens of Oakridge, NC, leader and moderator.