

Funeral Home Tour Pre-Class Assignment

January 2027 COSS

Objective: This assignment is designed to provide students with practical insights into funeral home operations and prepare them for collaboration with funeral homes in ministry contexts.

Instructions:

1. Schedule a Funeral Home Visit

- Contact a local funeral home and schedule a visit. Note the variety of services (traditional burials, cremation, pre-arranged plans, etc.).
- Include the name of the funeral home, the representative's name, and their contact information in your report.
- List the website and any brochures, documents or resources provided.

2. Tour the Facilities

During your visit, request to tour the following areas:

- **Meeting Rooms:** Spaces where families plan services.
- **Memorial Rooms:** Rooms for wakes, visitations, or services.
- **Gathering Spaces:** Indoor or outdoor spaces for post-service gatherings.
- **Gravesites (if applicable):** Visit the indoor and outdoor burial spaces.

3. Interview the Funeral Home Representative

Prepare questions and engage in a discussion with the representative. Suggested topics:

- **Services Offered:** Learn about the range of services (e.g., embalming, cremation, eco-friendly options) and costs.
- **Price Lists:** Request a general price list to understand cost structures.
- **Pre-Arranged Options:** Discuss benefits, challenges, and processes for pre-arranged funeral plans.
- **Best Practices:** Ask about ways pastors can collaborate effectively with the funeral home.

4. Learn About Cultural/Religious Sensitivities

- Discuss how the funeral home accommodates diverse cultural and religious practices.
- Identify any resources they provide to support faith-based communities.

5. Reflect on the Pastor's Role

- Discuss how pastors can support grieving families in collaboration with the funeral home.
- Identify ways pastors can integrate the funeral home services into the broader ministry of care.

6. Document Your Findings

Write a 1-2 page reflection paper or prepare a presentation covering the following:

- Overview of the funeral home (name, location, website, contact details) and date visited.
- Summary of the facilities and services offered.
- Key insights from the interview.
- Specific strategies for pastoral collaboration.
- Personal reflections on how this visit will shape your approach to funeral and memorial ministries.

Due Date: January 15, 2027 11:59PM via Canvas.