



RETIREMENT
ASSOCIATION

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Resources for end-of-life planning

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Members of the UWRA Retirement Challenges Committee discussed whether to have a program on how to discuss end-of-life issues with our families, including our health care wishes and preparations for our funeral. Not wanting to provide a forum for only one resource for this important life event, we have decided to provide the information below on some of the many local and internet resources. If there is call from the membership, we would be happy to plan a future program.



The **Conversation Project** is a national group that provides resources for you to hold end of life discussions with your family and loved ones, and with health care providers regarding your wishes. It can be accessed at: <http://theconversationproject.org/> and has a sample conversation starter kit that can be downloaded for free. It addresses such areas as identifying who you would like to make your medical decisions; what kinds of medical treatment you do and do not want; and what you would like your loved ones to know about your life, your care, and your funeral wishes. Their Five Wishes form substantially meets Wisconsin's requirements under the law for documentation about your wishes for your health care.

The funeral and end of life services providers in the Dane County area offer a range of options for viewing, memorial services, burial choices, and merchandise. Most have links to obituaries, services options, burial options, and descriptions of caskets, urns and burial vaults along with prices. Some provide resources such as grief groups, links to the Social Security office or Veterans information; and forms that include necessary tasks for end of life planning. Some have an online form to send to the funeral home in preparation for a meeting with them, others have a form that you can print out and complete for your own planning purposes.

The most comprehensive printable one in the Dane County area is:

<http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/planning/>.

Another is <https://secure.funeralhomehosting.org/rjr/prearrangements-form>.

The following is a listing of funeral, cremation and burial resources in the Dane County area:

- All Faiths Funeral and Cremation Service <http://www.866allfaiths.com/home/>
- Cress Funeral and Cremation Service – also Winn Cress <http://www.cressfuneralservice.com/>
- Ellestad Camacho Funeral Home and Crematory Mt Horeb <http://ellestadfuneralhome.com/obits/>
- Foster Funeral Services <http://www.fosterfuneralhomes.com/>
- Gunderson Funeral and Cremation Care <http://www.gundersonfh.com/>
- Informed Choice Funeral and Cremation Alternatives <http://www.informedchoicefunerals.com/obituaries/>
- Natural Path Sanctuary at the Farley Center in Verona, WI <http://farleycenter.org/nps/>
- Ryan and Joyce Funeral Home and Cremation Services <https://secure.funeralhomehosting.org/rjr/>
- Tuschen-Newcomer Funeral Home Sun Prairie <http://www.newcomerfh.com/>

The **Federal Trade Commission** has a series of websites with information about the funeral industry. One is on the “Funeral Rule,” which guarantees that consumers pay only for those funeral services they select. (<https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0300-ftc-funeral-rule>) From that website you can get to the FTC links on Funeral Costs and Pricing, Types of Funerals, Choosing a Funeral Provider, Buying a Cemetery Site, Planning your own Funeral (which includes information on prepaying); and Funeral Terms and Contact Information.

The Funeral Site (<http://www.thefuneralsite.com/>) provides comprehensive general information on funeral planning resources, funeral and burial products, and costs of funeral services; and provides a template for thinking about some decisions that can be made ahead of time. It has links to local funeral homes on the homepage, and web links to many more services and options. Here is that site’s link regarding costs, which can vary widely depending on the type of services and merchandise a family chooses. http://www.thefuneralsite.com/ResourceCenters/Costs/How_much.html.

The Funeral Site also has articles about how to write a Eulogy, poems for services, recommended books, grieving resources, and a link to a free Last Will and Testament form that can be used in Wisconsin. http://www.thefuneralsite.com/ResourceCenters/Funeral_Info/last-will-and-testament.html



*If you are interested in a presentation on any of these topics,
please contact the UWRA Office at retireassn@mailplus.wisc.edu.*