Interfaith
Dying and Death
Rituals Manual

November, 2006
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Baha’i Faith

Dying
Beliefs:
- An individual’s essence or reality is spiritual, not physical; the body is seen as the throne of the soul, worthy to be treated with honour and respect even though it may be dead.
- After physical death, the soul continues to progress; it proceeds on to the next stage of existence, closer to God, free of physical limitations.

Practices:
- Ask family or phone local clergy to determine their needs.

Death
Practices:
- Body should be buried not cremated preferably without embalming (unless embalming is required by law).
- Body must not be transported more than one hour’s journey from the place of death.
- For a Baha’i over 15 years of age, the Prayer for the Dead is to be recited at burial
- Chaplain is expected to contact the nearest Spiritual Assembly or the National Baha’i Centre.

Special Religious Rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- In cases of marriage, death and funerals, the chaplain is expected to contact the nearest Spiritual Assembly or the National Baha’i Centre at Thornhill.

Local Contact: Mr. Roy Stone (902) 678-9201
The Baha’i National Centre
The Baha’i Community of Canada
Department of Community Affairs
7200 Leslie Street
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6L8
(905) 889-8168
Buddhism

Dying Practices:
- It is important that a Buddhist representative be notified well in advance to preside over the care of a dying person.
- Individuals from within the Buddhist community, family, friends, and hospital staff should create a quiet, calm, sane atmosphere around the dying person. Even after the person loses consciousness and no longer has the ability to interact with the other people in the room, it is important to continue to relate to the dying person with awareness and respect, as if the person were still awake and present. Avoid loud noises, unnecessary talking, crying, and emotional conflicts – anything that might distract or disturb the dying person.
- When someone is dying, she or he may be frightened and have a lot of pain. If there is anything that can be done to pacify the person’s fear and reduce the physical pain, that would be very helpful. It will enable the dying person’s mind to become clear and steady, and allow him or her to focus on the dying process in a positive way.

Death Practices:
- Even after the person has breathed his or her last breath, from a Buddhist perspective, the person has not as yet died. Between the time that the heart has stopped and the onset of rigor mortis, the person may be in a deep state of meditation. It is best to leave the body undisturbed for as long as possible. Do not close the eyes, mouth etc. Leave the body just as it is.
- When a person dies, the consciousness can exit from various orifices of the body. It is preferable that it exits from the upper body. Therefore, when people are present, they should gather around the upper part of the body. If they gather around the lower part of the body, the person’s attention may be drawn downwards, potentially creating problems for that person in the after death experience.
- It is best that there is no talking, crying or additional noise. If people wish to cry, it would be best that they move to another room. At an appropriate time, the hospital staff should place the body on to a gurney, gently covering it with a cotton sheet with care so as not to create any disturbance. The body should then be moved to a cold storage room. The gurney should be placed at the back of this cold storage area as it should not be disturbed for the next three days or until an appropriate funeral ceremony can be performed.
- There is the potential for creating further confusion for the person who has died if the body is violated before rigor mortis is over. For this reason, autopsy and embalming should be avoided, if possible, during rigor mortis. Refrigeration is preferable to embalming, as it disturbs the body less.
- Once rigor mortis has passed and an appropriate funeral ceremony has been performed, the body may be removed from the gurney and prepared for cremation. In some communities, it is traditional for the body to be taken to the meditation hall and be present during the funeral ceremony three days after death.
Special Religious Rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- These must be performed by ordained monks or nuns of the Buddhist community.

Local Contact:

Alan Sloan
Halifax Shambhala Buddhist Meditation Centre
1084 Tower Rd.
Halifax, NS, B3H 2Y5

or

Ven. Bikkshuni Tenzin Kalsan  (416) 977-4656  phone
Tengye Ling Tibetan Buddhist Centre  (416) 366-9874  fax
50 Beverley Street
Toronto, Ontario  M5T 1X9
The Anglican Church of Canada

Dying

Beliefs:
- Jesus Christ's followers share in his victory over death and in the resurrection of the body.
- The communion of saints binds all Christians, living and dead, together in a spiritual union in Christ.
- Created order is essentially sacramental. Sacraments are not only signs of God’s love and compassion but convey God’s presence to the Church.

Practices:
- Use prayer with the sacrament of unction may be in order in the event of illness. (See book of Alternative Services, pages 554-558)
- The sacrament of unction. “Asks that whatever may be the present physical condition of a person, that he/she be open to God’s healing love in whatever form and to whatever end it may come.” (Holmes page 27)
- Ask family their needs. Offer to contact a priest.

Death

Practices:
- Funerals/memorials services are normally conducted in a church.
- A rite Concerning Ministry at the Time of Death, (see Book of Alternative Services, pages 559-564.)
- Rubrics indicate that ordained or laypersons may lead in these prayers with consideration being given to presentation by someone with whom the sick person is familiar.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Anointing the sick, Holy Communion, Baptism, Confession, Marriage are the rituals (sacraments) in the Anglican Church.
- Anglicans are permitted to receive the ministrations from representatives of any Christina denomination, but should be entitled to receive the Sacraments from Anglican priests or authorized ministers on request, especially if a chaplain is not ordained in a sacramental tradition.
- The theology of the Anglican Church is embodied in its liturgy. Anglicans hold to the guidelines “les orandi, lex credendi”, which means “the law of praying is the law of believing”.


Local Contact

Kentville  Rev. Archdeacon Lynn Uzans
           (902) 678-3123

Berwick   Fr. Charles Bull
           (902) 538-9371

Port Williams  Fr. David Garrett
               (902) 542-7476

Wolfville  Rev. Cathy Cunningham
           (902) 542-2464

Anglican Diocese of NS and PEI
College Street,
Halifax, NS
Phone: (902) 420-0717
# The Apostolic Church of Pentecost

## Dying

**Practices:**
- Ask family what their needs are.

## Death

**Beliefs:**
- Life after death, bodily resurrection.
- Eternal destiny is determined by decisions made in this life as taught in scripture.

**Practices:**
- Ask family what their needs are.

### Special Religious Rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Our ministers are authorized to perform all Christian rituals such as Water Baptisms, marriages and funerals. However, we also recognize the validity of these ceremonies when performed by other Christian ministers or civil authorities.

## Local Contact:

None known

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Condensed from work written by:

Rev. John Moore  
814-20 Graydon Hall Drive  
Don Mills, Ontario  M3A 3A1  
Phone: (416) 444-770
The Baptist Church

Dying Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Death Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Special religious rituals that can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- Usually an ordained minister conducts funeral services, although it is not essential.

Local Contact:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kentville</td>
<td>Rev. John McNally</td>
<td>(902) 678-3162 (o)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Minas</td>
<td>Rev. Bob Knowles</td>
<td>(902) 681-7683 (o)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Port Williams</td>
<td>Rev. Dave Oglivie</td>
<td>(902) 542-3495 (o)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Centerville</td>
<td>Rev. Marc Potvin</td>
<td>(902) 678-1946 (o)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Canadian Conference Brethren in Christ Church

Dying Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Death Beliefs:
- Believers are welcomed through Jesus Christ directly into God’s presence, unto everlasting blessing.
- Cultural practices of embalming, funeral ceremonies and cremation are accepted.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- An ordained pastor should perform most Christian rituals. These include baptism, marriage and funeral ceremonies.

Local Contact: Unknown

Condensed from work written by:

Rev. Leonard Chester
Canadian Conference Brethren in Christ Church
5384 Sherkston Road
Sherkston, Ontario. L0S 1R0
Phone: (905) 894-0673
The Christadelphians

Dying

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.

Death

Beliefs:
- Death is the complete cessation of life. There is no conscious existence in death.
- Those who die in faith await the return of Christ and resurrection from the sleep of death.

Practices:
- Earth burial is most common but cremation is chosen by some, individual choice.
- Funeral/memorial service is usually conducted by one of the brethren.

Special Religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- None

Local Contact: None Known

The Christadelphians
PO Box 21049
84 Lynden Road
Brantford, Ontario N3R 7W9
The Christian and Missionary Alliance

Dying

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Prayer for the sick and anointing with oil may be requested.

Death

Beliefs:
- Bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust for the former resurrection unto life; for the latter, a resurrection to judgment.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Pastors conduct funerals.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- None that apply to dying and death.

Local Contact: None Known

Condensed from work written by:

Rev. Gorden Bocek
Christian and Missionary Alliance
155 Panin Road
Burlington, Ontario
L7V 1A1
Phone: (905) 639-9615
The Christian Reformed Church

Dying Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Death Beliefs:
- As stated in the Apostolic Creed, … we believe in the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.
- The denomination holds funeral services, at which ordained ministers usually, but not necessarily officiate.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- Only ordained clergy administer the sacraments.

Local Contact: Rev. Winston Visser (902) 678-6293(o)

Canadian Office
The Christian Reformed Church
3475 Mainway, PO Box 5070
Burlington, Ontario L7R 3Y8
(905) 336-2920 phone
(905) 336-8344 fax
Dying

Beliefs:
- Lutherans believe in the “...resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.”
- Death is not to be desired but neither is death a cause for fear and dread because God promises everlasting life to believers in Jesus Christ.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- As death approaches, in some cases they may request private communion, which involves confession; request “commendation of the dying” also known as “Last Rites” which are normally provided by ordained clergy.

Death

Practices:
- After death occurs, pastors usually conduct a funeral service, which may take a variety of forms, depending upon the wishes of the deceased’s family and friends- (1) memorial service without the body present. (2) A service for the Burial of the Dead – with or without the body present. (3) Full service – Burial of the Dead, Service of the Word and Eucharist (Holy Communion) – with or without the body present.
- Some Lutherans already have prearranged services and their wishes should be honored.
- Services normally are conducted in a church but can but may also be held in a funeral home, chapel, etc.
- It's appropriate for the Pastor to conduct a committal service at the graveside.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith:
- Ordained Lutheran Pastor is required to perform most religious rites or rituals, which include Baptisms, Catechetical Instruction, Confession, Communion, Commendation of the Dying, Service for Burial of the Dead, and Marriage. In extreme situations, these services may be provided by laypersons, excepting marriage in which a pastor also serves as a civil function under the law. Lutheran clergy also cooperate with other denominations in providing the services in some circumstances.
Local Contact:  None in area.  Call South Shore of Nova Scotia

Condensed from work written by

Rev. David Pfrimmer
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (Eastern Synod)
The Institute for Christian Ethics
C/O Waterloo Lutheran Seminary
75 University Avenue West
Waterloo, Ontario  N2L 3C5
Phone: (591) 884-1970  Ext. 2907
The Mennonite Church

Dying Practices:
- May desire anointing of the sick by persons from their congregation
- Ask if you could call their minister.

Death Practices:
- Ask family for whatever support they might need from you
- Offer to call clergy.

Special religious rituals for dying and death which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- Water Baptism.

Local Contact: Mr. Ron Wohlegemuth (902) 538-1197

The Mennonite Church of Eastern Canada
(519) 650-3806
4489 King Street East
Kitchener, Ontario N2G 3W6
The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Dying

Beliefs:
- Dying is first of all a physical process in which the body succumbs to breakdown or ceases to function organically due to age, disease or accident. However, there is a spiritual component to dying, in that the soul leaves the body, continuing to exist in a state of consciousness as the person enters the realm of eternity.
- Respect for person and family.

Practices:
- Offer to call clergy.
- Respect for person and family.

Death

Beliefs:
- One’s relationship with God through Jesus Christ determines one’s standing and state in eternity. Upon the return of Christ to establish and reign over the Kingdom of God, there will be a resurrection of all the dead. Those who have accepted salvation in Christ will spend eternity with Him in a state of blessedness. All others face eternal judgment.

Practices:
- Offer to call clergy.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- An ordained pastor conducts marriage ceremonies.
- Pastor normally presides at burials, funerals/memorial services. Such are usually conducted in the church, but may be done in a local funeral home.
- A pastor administers Holy Communion conducted on a monthly basis.
- Dedication of children (new born babies usually) is done by the pastor upon request of parents.
Local Contact: Kentville (902) 678-3455 (w)

Canning Rev. David Elliot (902) 582-7094 (o)

Kingston Rev Carmen Crockett (902) 765-2234 (w)

Written by Rev. David Slauenwhite, July 2006 former minister of Kingsway Assembly (Kentville)

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
Harvest Pentecostal Assembly
Box 521
Don Mills, Ontario M3C 2T4
Phone: (416) 730-1967

Further Note by Rev. David Slauenwhite:

Note: The Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada is the largest and mainline Pentecostal denomination in Canada. However, there are other smaller denominations such as the Pentecostal Holiness Church, the Apostolic Church of Pentecost, etc., and numerous independent Pentecostal churches which may have some similarities in areas of doctrine and practice with PAOC, but often function in a less structured manner and which tend to be less open to interchurch fellowship. A radically different Pentecostal denomination is the United Pentecostal Church, known as the "Jesus Only" group. They are characterized by a denial of the Trinity, an insistence upon water baptism and Spirit Baptism for salvation, and maintain a legalistic approach with all other Pentecostal groups, and there is no interaction or fellowship between the United Pentecostal Church and the PAOC.
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<th>Death</th>
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**Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.**

**Local Contact:** None Known

Our Lady Queen of Poland Mission  
79 Fredbland Crescent  
Scarborough, Ontario M1J 3L7  
Phone: (416) 289-0505
The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Dying
Beliefs:
- Having a minister or elder may be important.
- Scripture and prayer may be important

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.
- If clergy unavailable, find someone for scripture reading and prayer if family desires this.

Death
Beliefs:
- Resurrection following death.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are
- Autopsies, cremation and burial are all permitted.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Only ordained ministers of word and sacraments may lead the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper and baptize. Ordained ministers of other Christian denominations also validly perform these sacraments. In emergency situations, non-ordained Christians may baptize.

Local Contact: New Minas Rev. Tim Archibald 681-1333 (w)
Ministry and Church Vocations
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
North York, Ontario M3C 1J7
Phone: (416) 441-1111 Fax (416) 441-2825
The Reformed Church In Canada

Dying
Practice:
- No special rituals.
- Ask family what would be helpful.

Death
Beliefs:
- In the time of death, the church witnesses to life eternal.

Practices:
- Most families prefer burial although some choose cremation.
- Family and friends of deceased may be encouraged to call pastor for support when death occurs.
- Families are encouraged to hold funeral services at the place where the Christian family gathers for worship.
- Ask family what their needs are.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Generally ordained pastor preaches the Word and administers the sacraments.
- The Board of Elders may give permission to an Elder to perform at these functions should a special need arise.

Local Contact: None Known

Condensed from writing by Rev. Will Kroon

Reformed Church in Canada
C/O West Park Hospital
82 Buttonwood Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M6M 2J5
Phone: (416) 243-3600 Ext 2401
The Roman Catholic Church

Dying

- Attentiveness of family and church members.
- Prayers and communion as requested by patient and/or family
- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick if requested. Must be conducted by a priest.

Death

- Body to be treated with respect.
- Autopsies are permitted for legal inquests or scientific research.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- The Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick may only be conducted by a priest.

Local Contact: Fr. Craig Christenson (902) 678-3303 (o)

Fr. Larry Pitcher (902) 538-3194
(902) 542-3074
The Salvation Army

Dying Practices:
- Usually prayer and Scripture.
- Offer to contact officer.

Death Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact officer.

Special religious rituals, which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- A commissioned officer must perform funerals.

Local Contact:
Kentville  Major Bond & Marina Jennings  (902) 678-6447 (w)
Bridgetown  Capt. Heather Fudge  (902) 665-4011 (w)
The Seventh Day Adventist Church

Dying Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact minister.

Death Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact minister.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Unknown.

Local Contact: New Minas Pastor John Fornier
(902) 681-1034 (o)
The United Church

Dying Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact minister.

Death Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact minister.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Only those persons authorized by the church through ordination may conduct the sacraments of Baptism and Holy Communion, and officiate at the ordinance of Marriage. Exceptions are made under special circumstances.

Local Contact:

Kentville  Rev. Dr. Randy Crozman  (902) 678-4955 (o)

New Minas  Rev. Larry Doyle  (902) 861-03666(o)

Wolfville/Greenwich  Rev. Robyn L. Brown-Hewitt  (902) 542-3796 (o)
  *(902) 864-3796

Aylesford/Morden  Kay Dean, DM  (902) 847-9624 (o)

Canard  Rev. Michael Gibbons  (902) 582-7908 (w)

Canning/Kingsport  David Hewitt, DM  (902) 582-7556 (o)

Berwick/Woodville/ Harbourville  Rev. Don MacPherson  (902) 538-9251 (o)
The Worldwide Church of God

Dying

- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact officer of church, that the family names.

Death

Beliefs:
- Death is total unconsciousness through a resurrection, God will judge all who have lived.

Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Offer to contact officer of the church, that the family names.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- Ordination, anointing of the sick, weddings.

Local Contact: None Known

World Wide Church of God
P.O. Box 44, Station A
Vancouver, British Columbia
V6C 2M2
1-800-663-2345
Hare Krishna

Dying
Practices:
- Unknown rituals.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Certain types of beads may be important for prayers.

Death
Beliefs:
- We are not our bodies but eternal souls part and parcel of God (Krishna).
- When the body dies we pass onto another body unless we have become fully conscious of Krishna where we go directly to the eternal.
Practices:
- Devotees may perform a ceremony which includes chanting of the Hare Krishna mantra “Hare Krishna, Hare Krishna,” (see Multifaith Information Manual page 122).
- Bodies are either cremated or buried.
- Ask family what their needs are.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- Sacraments including birth, spiritual initiation, marriage, etc.

Local Contact: None Known
Nanda-Tanjua Das
ISKCON Toronto
243 Ave. Road
Toronto, Ontario
Phone: (416) 922-5415
Hinduism

Dying
Beliefs:
- The last thoughts or words are of Rama (God), ensuring the rebirth to a higher form.
Practices:
- Pain medications permitted if needed.
- Married women’s nuptial thread or amulets on the neck or arm, indicating special blessings, should not be removed until after death. Then, anything which binds the body (such as a belt or ring) is removed, paving the way for the soul’s free journey to infinity.

Death
Beliefs:
- The spirit of the person who dies remains around for several days until religious ceremonies are performed.
- Belief in reincarnation.
Practices:
- Hindus prefer to die at home, as close to mother earth as possible (usually on the floor or the ground).
- The Gita is recited to strengthen the dying person’s mind and provide comfort so that he or she may begin the final journey.
- Married women’s nuptial thread or amulets on the neck or arm’ indicating special blessings’ should not be removed until after death. Then, anything which binds the body (such as a belt or ring) is removed, paving the way for the soul’s free journey to infinity.
- Nobody should have any attachment to the dead body.
- The family washes the body. The oldest son arranges for the funeral and cremation before daybreak.
- Embalming or beautifying the body with artificial decorations is strictly forbidden.
- The body must be attended until cremation.
- The name of Rama is chanted, or the Gita is read continuously in the presence of the body. This practice is considered to be very soothing for the departed soul and helpful for the soul’s journey back to its source.
- A post-mortem of the body is not favoured.
- Cremation takes place on the day of death. The ashes are usually scattered on Holy water.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith

- Rituals at death and bereavement
Local Contact:  Mr. Ashok Deshpande
(902) 679-2657  Ext. 2008
(902) 678-9447

Vedanta Ashram Society
6421 Cork Street,
Halifax, NS
Phone: (902) 431-6000
Islam

Dying Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- The patient must confess sins and beg forgiveness before death.
- He or she should recite (with the help of others) the Islamic Creed (Shahadah) (La Ilaha Illa-Allah Muhammadur Rasuulullaah), meaning “there is no god but Almighty God.
- A Muslim near the dying person should recite some chapters from the Quran, especially Surah Ya-seen, and ask God for Mercy and Forgiveness for the dying person.
- Privacy and same gender care for girls and women if possible.

Death Beliefs:
- Humans consist of a body and soul.
- At the moment of death the soul separates from the body.
- Each person is held accountable for one’s faith and actions and will be judged by God on this basis.

Practices:
- After death, the individual’s eyes should be gently shut, his or her mouth closed with a bandage running under the chin and tied over the head, and arms and legs straightened.
- The family washes and prepares the body, then turns it to face Mecca. Only relatives or friends may touch the body, and unless required by law, there should be no postmortem; no body should be removed.
- The surrounding people can grieve and shed tears but are forbidden to wail, beat the breast, slap the face, tear their hair or garments, or complain.

Special religious rituals which can be preformed only by an authorized representative of this faith.
- Rituals of deceased
- Final rites
- Washing and shrouding of the corpse
- Prayer Service
- Funeral
Local Contact:  Dr. Hassona Moussa  (902) 542-7886

Sheik Faisal Abur Razak
Executive Director
Forum for Islamic Studies of Canada
P.O. Box 36002, 9025 Torbram Road
Brampton, Ontario
L6S 6A3
Phone: (905) 458-7142
Jainism

Dying
Beliefs:
➢ Jainists believe in rebirth, which one’s soul lives again and again, through many lives in different bodies.
Practices:
➢ Ask family what their needs are.

Death
Practices:
➢ After death, the body is cremated according to Jain ritual.
➢ Ask family what their needs are.

Special religious rituals which can be preformed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

➢ None

Local Contact:   None Known

Jain Society of Toronto
48 Rosemeade Avenue
Etobicoke, Ontario
M8Y 3A5
Jehovah’s Witnesses

**Dying**

**Beliefs:**
- Death is a state of total unconsciousness.
- Only 144,000 of Jesus faithful apostles will reign with him in heaven.
- Other faithful Witnesses will live forever in paradise on the restored earth.

**Practices:**
- Ask family what their needs are.

**Death**

**Practices:**
- An elder performs a funeral service for the deceased and the congregation offers comfort to family and friends.
- Ask family what their needs are.

**Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith**

- Unknown

**Local Contact:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Walter Hayman</td>
<td>(902) 681-6484</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Paul Boutlier</td>
<td>(902) 798-2602</td>
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Canadian Branch Office
Box 4100
Halton Hills, ON
(416) 451-8200
Judaism

Dying
Beliefs:
- Every human being is composed of a soul (inner spiritual essence) and a body. When death occurs the soul returns to the Almighty and body to the dust of the earth.

Practices:
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to call local contact.

Death
Beliefs:
- Life and death are part of God’s plan.
- The need to honour the dignity of the body.
- The need to assist the bereaved through a mourning ritual.

Practices:
- The body must not be left unattended from death until burial.
- The burial should take place as soon as possible, preferably within 24 hours after the death or as soon as the family can be gathered.
- Jews are opposed to most autopsies.
- The body must be buried not cremated.
- Amputated members must be buried, not destroyed.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- It is customary to have a Rabbi officiate in a formal capacity whenever a ceremony is required, to insure that proper Jewish practice is followed.

Local Contact: Dr. Joelle Caplan

For Orthodox Jews: Rabbi David Ellis
Atlantic Jewish Council
The Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter-Day Saints
(The Mormons)

Dying

Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to call clergy.

Death

Beliefs:
- All individuals will be resurrected and will attain the degree of glory in heaven for which they are qualified.

Practices:
- No special rituals.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Offer to contact clergy.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith.

- All temple ordinances, including the sealing of husband to wife, and children to parents, for all eternity within the walls of a church temple.
- All church ordinances such as baptism, bestowing the gift of the Holy Ghost, patriarchal blessings, etc.

Local Contact: Bishop Gary Parrish (902) 678-0453
The Reorganized Church Of Jesus Christ Of Latter Day Saints

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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tbody>
</table>

Local Contact: None Known

Written by Larry Windland
Ontario Regional President
Reorganized Church of Latter Day Saints
390 Speedvale Ave. East
Guelph, Ontario N1E 1N5
Phone: (519) 822-4150
Native American

Dying

Beliefs:
- Immense variety!!
- Generally absence of fear of death due to their understanding of being an integral part of the natural world.
- Importance of family at person’s death. If person dies alone, family may suffer a fair amount of guilt.

Practices:
- Ask family what is important to them.
- Usually will want all family in room.
- May want sweet grass ceremony.
- If Roman Catholic may want priest for anointing of sick.

Death

Beliefs:
- The after life is a world of peace.

Practices:
- Generally no taboos re: touching the body.
- Ask family prior to death what is important to for them.
- Body is often kissed and embraced.
- Some have customs of giving away all possessions of the person to members of the community.
- Customary for friends and relatives of fill in the grave at burial.

Local Contact: None Known
Rastafarianism

Dying
Beliefs:
➢ A personal religion that places emphasis on individual dignity and a deep love of God.
➢ Ask family what their needs are.

Practices:
➢ Visitation is important.
➢ Family members may pray at bedside.
➢ Blood transfusions may be problematic.
➢ Organ transplants generally not acceptable.

Death
Beliefs:
➢ The body is the home of the spirit. The body serves no further purpose when the spirit has left.

Practices:
➢ Ask family what their needs are.
➢ Burial is preferred.

Specials religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith
➢ None.

Local Contact:
None Known

From:
Religions in Canada – National Defense of Canada
>http://www.forces.gc.ca/hr/religions/engraph/religions26-e.asp
Sikhism

Dying

Beliefs:
- Sikhs believe in the spirit’s rebirth into a new life, until one achieves final salvation.

Death

Practices:
- The body is bathed, dressed and cremated.
- In case of a father’s death, the oldest son must be present at the cremation and is subsequently recognized as the new head of the household, signified by tying a turban on his head.
- The floor is washed and covered with white sheets; people take their shoes off outside the room.
- A brief service for relatives is held with hymn singing.
- Lamenting is not in order, but members give thanks to God for the deceased’s life.
- The body is cremated. Afterward, a service is held at the home or temple, with continuous reading from the Guru Granth Sahib. This lasts approximately 48 hours.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith

- The rite of Baptism must be performed by the 5 members of the Khalsa.

Local Contact: Dr. J Singh

Mr. T. Sher Singh
10 Deerchase Court
Guelph, Ontario
N1G 3X5
Phone: (519) 836-6565
# Unitarians and Universalists In Canada

## Dying

**Beliefs:**
- They tend not to believe in an afterlife.
- It would be unusual to find a Unitarian or a Universalist believing in any kind of heaven or hell outside of earthly experience.

**Practices:**
- Ask family what their needs are.

## Death

**Practices:**
- Oppose laws which limit freedom, including laws restricting abortion and the right to die.
- Many Unitarians actively support “living wills” and patients’ rights to refuse treatment or life supports.
- Some Unitarians would also support individuals’ rights to determine the time and manner of their death.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- Cremation and burial are both acceptable.

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**Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith**

- None Known.

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**Local Contact:** None known

**Additional Information:** http://www.cuc.ca - official website

Ellen K. Campbell  
Executive Director  
Canadian Unitarian Council  
55 Eglinton Ave. East, Suite 705  
Toronto, ON  
M4P 1G8  
Phone: (416) 489-4121
Wiccan Church

Dying

Beliefs:
- **Contemporary**: Many gods and goddesses are spirits of excellence in all activities and ancient cultures.
- **Norse**: The life of the deceased determines the home of the God to which he or she will go.
- **Greco-Roman**: Several afterlife realms, some of which are resting places before reincarnation.
- **Egyptian**: The physical body lives again in an afterlife.
- **Celtic**: Life force is dispersed to realms of earth, sea and sky as the body decomposes.

Practices:
- Ask patient and family what their needs are.
- May desire a healing rite from his/her faith community or contact Wiccan Church of Canada with the request if no specific faith group.
- Use of talismans and shrines dedicated to healing deities may be important.

Death

Practices:
- If there is no pastoral care giver for the deceased, the chaplain or staff member should call the Wiccan Church of Canada to determine if the deceased has registered the nature of rites requested.
- Ask family what their needs are.
- **Contemporary**: Personal religious objects are usually cremated on an open pyre.
- **Norse**: Rites vary according to which home the deceased is thought to be going. Cremation with small offerings is common.
- **Greco-Roman**: Cremation or burial without embalming. External symbols of mourning such as black armbands are worn until the mourner feels that his or her loss has healed.
- **Egyptian**: Extensive embalming is traditional, but is giving way today to environmental concern.
- **Celtic**: Burial without embalming assists the body's return to nature. Wakes (parties in honour of the deceased) release the deportee's debts and obligations, so as to send his or her spirit off free of old bonds.

Special religious rituals (rites of passage) which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith

- Passing the Veil: A funeral. The rite varies according to the cultural bases of the departed's closest deities.
Local Contact: None Known

The Wiccan Church of Canada
1555 Eglinton Avenue West
Toronto, ON
M6E 2G9
Phone: (416) 781-2123
Zoroastrianism

Dying
Beliefs:
- Believe in the immortality of the soul.
- Believe in the concept of divine judgment and state of the soul in Heaven or Hell depending on the choice made between the good and evil in life.

Death
Practices:
- Preparation of the body consisting of ritual bath and wearing of the sacred symbols of the sudreh (a white undershirt which carries a symbolic bag near the heart to gather good deeds) and kusti (a woolen cord worn around the waist).
- Four-day funerary practices performed by priests.
- Presently, cremation or burial in North America.

Special religious rituals which can be performed only by an authorized representative of this faith
- Higher liturgical ceremonies such as Yasna and ceremonies for the departed.
- Initiation into faith.
- Weddings.
- Ordination.
- Ritual of purification bath.

Local Contact: None Known
Zoroastrian Society of Ontario
3590 Bayview Ave.
Willowdale, ON
M2M 3S6
Phone: (416) 733-4586
Acknowledgements

Archibald, Rev. Tim  (Presbyterian)

Caplan, Dr. Joelle  (Judaism)

Deshpanade, Mr. Ashok  (Hinduism)


Toronto, Ontario:  W.D. Keeping Printers Ltd.,  1995

Singh, Dr. J.  (Sikhism)

Slauenwhite, Rev. David  (Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada)

Sloan, Alan (Buddhist)

The Encyclopedia Britannica.  The Protestant Heritage.
http://www.britannica.com/eb/article-225173

Uzans, Rev. Archdeacon Lynn  (Anglican)

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(Rev.) Heather Embree, Coordination Chaplain VRH
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www.avdha.nshealth.ca/programs/pastoralcare.asp