Written for clergy/lay leaders involved in end of life ministry. Includes: writings on pastoral care for end of life and practical guidelines for planning a funeral, scriptures and hymn suggestions also worksheets for people to fill in. The “end of life” decision making rubric is slightly more daunting than 5 wishes.

Written for use by individuals and families considering: end of life care decisions, funeral planning in context, great helps for estate planning and will writing.

Five Wishes
Primarily helps for end of life care, written in pastoral language. Call 18885wishes to purchase copies, also they have a DVD – www.agingwithdignity.org

Used in the context of an estate planning workshop, information on Bishop’s Society, planned giving, funeral plan basics, letter to family regarding funeral plan.

Creating a Successful Parish Legacy Society, Diocese of Olympia
For use by congregational leaders in thinking about ultimate stewardship.

Diocese of Wyoming – Planning for the Final Celebration of Life
Funeral planning, legal and estate planning too; not much pastoral or theological context setting.

Diocese of Colorado – Instructions for my Family and Friends
Similar to Wyoming document – a small amount of theological and pastoral context.

Planning Before Death Happens (trifold) – Holy Trinity, Greensboro NC
Succinct, funeral planning only, good theological and pastoral context

Funeral Customary: Planning for a loved one’s death, or your own. Dorothy Behlin Heinrichs, ed. St. Thomas, Hanover, NH
Great “chapters” on theology and pastoral care. Funeral Planning – hymn suggestions. Writing an obituary. Advanced Care resource list and Funeral Home Resource list. Includes general costs for different burial decisions.

Planning Ahead. St. John’s Crawfordsville, IN
Six pages that include how to think about planning for death – broadest end of life decisions narrowing quickly to the practice around funerals at that parish including fees for parishioners and non-parishioners. Does not include forms to fill in.
Other Sample Funeral planning forms (often highlight local custom):

- St. Davids, Austin TX, 2 pages (little or no theo/pastoral background, used in context of other resources)
- Cathedral of St. James, 4 pages, (little or no theo/pastoral background, used in context of other resources)
- St. Lukes, Ewing, NJ, 4 pages, (little or no theo/pastoral background, used in context of other resources)
- St. Pauls Lynchburg, VA, 10 pages (one page theo context, “optional” estate planning that includes the church, one page fees)
- Trinity Tulsa, OK, 16 pages (includes all readings, teaching around funerals, also includes “Letter to Family” regarding funeral wishes, not legally binding, offered in spirit of helpfulness)
- Christ Church, New Brighton, 6 pages (4 pages of theo context, 2 pages for family to fill out before meeting with clergy to plan service – oriented to families of deceased rather than pre-planning.)
- St. Lukes, 6 pages (two paragraphs on health decisions and estate planning then launches in to funeral planning)
- St. Mary’s, Barnstable, MA, 12 pages (large print, funeral planning, includes fees)

Enriching our Worship 2: Ministry with the Sick or Dying, Burial of a Child.
Pastoral resources.

Enriching our Worship 3: Ministry Burial Rites for Adults together with the Burial of a Child.
Pastoral resources: expanded committal, extra prayers of the people, 40 day remembrance rite, introduction contains teaching resources.

Enriching our Worship 5: Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth and Loss.
Pastoral resources on death of infants.