**Care Tasks**

Ongoing pastoral care with survivors (near and far), follow up & check in

Bereavement groups, “compassionate friends”

Building systems of congregational support (Stephen Ministers, casserole bringers, reception hosts, bereavement team)

Blue Christmas Service/ quarterly healing and wholeness services

Empty table/chair

**Religious and Theological Interpretation Tasks**

Preaching about death and dying, mortality, human limitation, the afterlife

Liturgical and other calendar opportunities: All Saints Day, Ash Wed, Good Friday, Easter, Mothers/Fathers Day, Memorial Day, Dedication Day, Homecoming Sunday, Methodist charge conference question “who has left the congregation through death?”

Adult Education re end of life issues (living will, will, funeral pre-planning (including disposition of the body), death, dying and the afterlife

Where and how do you talk with children and youth about death and dying?

Interpretive attention to public loss and death (War, school shootings, death of national figures, natural disasters, etc.) The death of a major figure in the congregation

**Questions we have not addressed**

Should you take money for your services? Why, why not?

What do you do with the Masons? Military, Cops and Firefighter?

Do you officiate funerals for your own loved ones?

Do you do funerals for people outside the faith community?

What about public interfaith services after mass tragedy?

Where to find resources?

Vocabulary – who are the people at the funeral home, what do you call the place where the body is burned, etc.

How do we prepare people outside the faith community to lead funerals