

Once a parish has been disestablished, it is important that the disposal of parish property - building and contents - be done expeditiously, with dignity and fairness and following a clear and agreed process. Unfortunately circumstances vary considerably whenever a building is to be sold. When it is sold to another church, the disposition is always much easier than when a secular use follows for the building. This policy is offered as a guide.

**Policy for the Disposition of Moveable Memorials/Furnishings
from Disestablished Parishes**

1. A memorial to any parish, once given, like any gift, becomes the property of the recipient and no longer belongs to the donor or his/her family members. Unfortunately, there is no guarantee that it will be able to remain in the parish to which it was given. However, the wishes of the donor family will be considered should it become necessary to remove a memorial gift from a church building in Niagara diocese.
2. The Regional Archdeacon, the Wardens and the 'Priest/Cleric in Charge' will take an inventory of the items in question.
3. A list may then be advertised on the Diocesan website after the parish has been disestablished and worship in the building has ceased. Requests for any items will be made in writing to the Regional Archdeacon before a stated date, with the understanding that the items in question may or may not be available depending upon the conditions of sale of the property. The submitted request should include the reason for the request (connections, need, etc.)
4. The Regional Archdeacon, (in consultation with any or all of the Wardens, the Priest/Deacon involved, the Diocesan Archivist and the Bishop) makes the distribution.
5. The cost of the removal of fixed items and the making good of any damaged building fabric will be borne by the recipient parish or individual.

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