

## DIOCESAN POLICY RE REQUESTS FOR HERITAGE DESIGNATION

The Anglican Church in this Diocese and elsewhere has always prized both our historic roots and a standard of architectural elegance for our churches.

We applaud parishes that wish to be linked with the aims of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and the local architectural conservancy advisory committees in recognizing our past inheritance. But we must balance this respect for the past with assured freedom to adapt and modernize our properties to be effective bases for ministry to present and future needs, or indeed, to remove buildings if it is appropriate to do so.

Therefore, the policy for the Diocese is as follows:

1. The Diocese is prepared to permit parishes to enter into arrangements with the Ontario Heritage Foundation for designation as an historic site or building, so long as the arrangements include a contract in agreement with an example, available from the Synod office. Any financial assistance that may accrue from this designation, which does *not* involve the granting of an easement, may be welcomed.
2. The Diocese is categorically opposed to the signing of any easements, for they involve a loss of control on the part of the parish over what they may do with their own buildings. Even financial assistance is too high a price for this giving away of a parish's rights of self-determination. Even if the word "easement" is not used, the contracts asked for which clearly indicate that a degree of control is effectively forfeited, should not be accepted.

Similarly, if a municipality takes steps to designate any church property, the Diocese is on record as objecting to such involuntary designation for the above reasons.

It is important that all parishes understand that they must not enter into any such agreements as described above, without the authorization of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese, according to Canon 14.

*Per Executive Committee Meeting of June 3, 1988*

*Revised July 2003*