

ARE THE SPACES TRANSFERABLE?

If for some reason the family does not make use of the niche, it reverts to the church for reassignment. Niche space may not be transferred or sold to another person without the consent of the church.

CAN A CONTAINER BE REMOVED?

The container may be moved by agreement between the church and the next of kin. No interments or removals shall be made without prior written consent of the Session and in accordance with the laws of the State of Michigan. If container(s) are permanently removed, the original agreement shall become null and void, and the niche may be reassigned to another party by the church. The cost of the niche is non-refundable.

WHAT HAPPENS TO THE CREMAINS IF THE CHURCH MOVES OR CEASES TO EXIST?

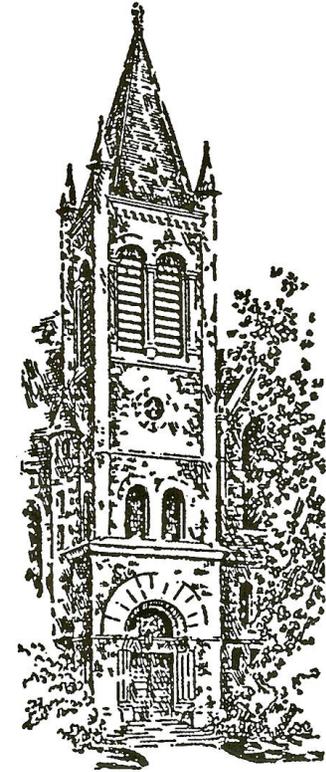
In the event the church should relocate, every effort will be made to relocate the Columbarium to the new church. Should the church cease to exist, disposition of the cremains will be determined in consultation with the next of kin. In the event of no next of kin, disposition will be the sole discretion of the Session at the time.

HOW CAN I RESERVE A NICHE IN THE COLUMBARIUM / MEMORIAL GARDEN?

Call the church office for an appointment to visit the Columbarium, select a suitable niche and complete the Certificate of Ownership. The church will maintain accurate records of all interring and scattering in a permanent registry. Pre-planned funeral arrangements will be kept on file at the church.

Mortician Services are necessary for cremation. Michigan Law requires transportation of bodies by licensed morticians. Embalming is not required if cremation occurs within 48 hours of death. A casket is not necessary although a container is required by the crematory. These arrangements can be made in advance with a mortician.

THE COLUMBARIUM



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THE COLUMBARIUM

WHAT IS THE COLUMBARIUM?

If you were to look it up in Webster's, it says the word is Latin for pigeon hole, but for use in the church, it is a space where remains may be placed after cremation.

The Columbarium in the Courtyard is designed for those who love their church and have a sense of closeness to it, which they would like to preserve, even after death. It is a hallowed place, sacred to the memory of those who have departed. It will be maintained in perpetuity as a quiet, dignified place of beauty, eternal peace and serenity.

WHERE IS THE COLUMBARIUM LOCATED?

The Columbarium is located in The Courtyard outside the Commons between the Sanctuary and education wing.

WHY HAVE A COLUMBARIUM?

Rising costs of land in or near metropolitan areas is making burial in cemetery plots more expensive. Many are considering cremation as an appropriate alternative to embalming. Session has determined it is appropriate for the church to provide a resting place for those who elect to be cremated. This decision was based on the following factors:

- ❖ A review of the Laws of The State of Michigan

- ❖ A study of Reformed Theology
- ❖ An understanding of the early church's practice of burial in the church building and recognizing the early American church's practice of burial in the churchyard.

Many find great comfort in knowing they will rest on the church grounds where so many formative and influential life experiences have taken place. Providing a columbarium provides a sense of continuity and remembrance in a very personal sense that a municipal or proprietary cemetery may not convey. Providing a lasting memorial in such a place is in keeping with our mission.

HOW DID THE CHURCH DECIDE TO ESTABLISH A COLUMBARIUM?

As a component of the *Keeping the Covenant – Leaving a Legacy Campaign* (1999-2002) the congregation redeveloped the Courtyard area. The Courtyard now provides space for a Memorial Garden and Columbarium among other uses. This design has created an aesthetically pleasing and spiritually satisfying environment for the remembrance of family members and friends.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE FOR INTERMENT IN OUR COLUMBARIUM?

All active or inactive members, their spouses, minor children, or wards, are eligible. Former members in good standing are eligible with the permission of Session.

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS?

Companion Niche \$2,000.00

(large enough for two)

Single Niche \$1,500.00

The only additional cost will be engraving.

WHAT ACCESS MAY BE HAD TO THE COLUMBARIUM?

Access to the Columbarium is permitted at any time the church is open to the public, or by special arrangements through the church office.

WHAT IS THE INTENDED USE OF THE COLUMBARIUM OTHER THAN THE SAFE KEEPING OF CREMAINS?

The Columbarium, along with the Memorial Garden, may be used for the service of interment at the time of death, either before or directly after a memorial service. Another use of the Courtyard and worship area is to provide family and friends a place to remember their loved one and experience the support of the church and staff.

WHAT TYPE OF CONTAINER IS REQUIRED?

A simple proprietary container is provided with the niche. Any container provided by the family is acceptable. However, urns must not exceed the dimensions of 8 inches high, 8 inches wide. This is the maximum size of a niche.