

General Convention of The Episcopal Church 2022 Archives' Research Report

Resolution No.: 2022-C047
Title: Establishing Compensation for Deacons
Proposer: Rhode Island
Topic: Church Pension Fund, Clergy Benefits

Directly Related: (Attached)

1988-D083 Amend Canon III.9.10 [Of Ordination to the Diaconate: Pension Fund Provisions]
1976-B046 Study Canonical Change to Expand Pension Coverage for Deacons

Indirectly Related: (Available in the [Acts of Convention](#) database, searchable by resolution number)

2003-A119 Continue the Study the Role of Deacons in the Church
2000-C033 Review Roles of Vocational Deacons in Church Councils

In preparing this report, the Archives researched the resolutions in the Acts of Convention database for the period 1973 through 2018, selecting “direct” resolutions that have a substantive bearing on the proposed legislation. The “direct” resolutions are attached and “indirect” resolutions are available in the Acts of Convention database. Committee members who require other research assistance should contact the Archives through the [Research Request Form](#) or call 800-525-9329.

C047 - Establishing Compensation for Deacons

Final Status: Not Yet Finalized

Proposed by: Rhode Island

Requests New Interim Body: No

Amends C&C or Rules of Order: No

Has Budget Implications: No

Cost:

HiA: HD

Legislative Committee Currently Assigned: 16 - Churchwide Leadership

Completion Status: Incomplete

Latest House Action: N/A

Supporting Documents: No

Resolution Text

Resolved, the House of _____ concurring,

That the 80th General Convention require each parish with a deacon, or parishes if a deacon is serving more than one community, pay said deacon \$25 a month as remuneration, and that each such parish also make the required contribution to the Church Pension Fund for the benefit of the deacon.

Explanation

Deacons serve in their parish and diocesan positions as deacons without remuneration. The Church Pension Fund provides resources for clergy and lay employees of churches in the Episcopal Church. One of the resources is CREDO, a wellness resource, that helps both active and retired clergy pension plan participants by presenting a holistic approach to wellness for mind, body, spirit, and heart. Participants examine and evaluate their health and wellness from the spiritual, vocational, physical and emotional health and financial points of view. The Church Pension Fund also provides pension and retirement savings plans, health benefits, and educational services. At recent conferences, representatives of the Church Pension Fund have stated that if deacons were paid a nominal amount, the deacons would be eligible for these benefits. This proposed amendment asks that congregations make such a nominal payment of \$25 a month to deacons, as well as a payment of 18% (\$4.50) to the Church Pension Fund to enable them to participate in the programs and benefits available through the Church Pension Fund.



Resolution Number: 1988-D083
Title: Amend Canon III.9.10 [Of Ordination to the Diaconate: Pension Fund Provisions]
Legislative Action Taken: Concurred
Final Text:

Resolved, That Title III, Canon 9, Section 10(d) be amended by the addition of the following language:

(d). The provisions of Canon I.8, "Of the Church Pension Fund", shall not apply, as to either assessments or benefits, to Deacons ordained under the provisions of the Section 7, *except that Deacons ordained under this provision who are employed in the active service of the Church on or after January 1, 1990, shall be entitled to the same provisions for pension protection as other Deacons under the Rules of The Church Pension Fund based on prospective service on and after January 1, 1990.*

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Detroit, 1988* (New York: General Convention, 1989), p. 288.



Resolution Number: 1976-B046

Title: Study Canonical Change to Expand Pension Coverage for Deacons

Legislative Action Taken: Concurred As Amended

Final Text:

Resolved, That the Board of Trustees of the Church Pension Fund be requested to study and to report to the 66th General Convention their views with respect to the amendment of Canon 7, of the Church Pension Fund, to permit a non-stipendiary Deacon to seek Pension Fund protection if he or she is not benefitted in a secular occupation.

Citation: General Convention, *Journal of the General Convention of...The Episcopal Church, Minneapolis, 1976* (New York: General Convention, 1977), p. C-65.