

RESOLUTION TITLE: Resolution Establishing Compensation for Deacons

RESOLVED, That the 230th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island 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 in the Episcopal Church in Rhode Island 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.

Signed by The Venerable Janice L. Grinnell

Signed by The Rev'd Mary Ann Mello