

FAQ

What is The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church?

In 1927, we were founded as a pension fund by and for the deaconesses of The Episcopal Church. Our purpose has changed over the years, as the diaconate has changed. The last deaconess was ordained in 1970. The Fund membership voted to include all deacons as members, regardless of gender, in 1989.

What is the mission of The Fund?

Our mission is to assist TEC deacons in financial need.

Who are the members?

You are! All ordained Episcopal deacons in good standing are members of The Fund. There are no dues.

Where does your money come from?

The Fund is fortunate to have an endowment that reaches back to the generous support of the original deaconesses and their friends. Today, The Fund draws on that endowment and on the generosity of individual donors.

How do you spend your money?

Until recently, dollars from The Fund could only be spent on deacons who demonstrated dire financial need. But, looking forward, The Fund sees its mission as assisting the entire diaconate to flourish.

Who administers the Fund?

The Fund is overseen by a ten-member board, nine of whom are elected for three-year terms by the deacons of The Episcopal Church. The Treasurer is the tenth member of the board, and is elected at the reorganization meeting each January. Board members are not paid, but are reimbursed for expenses, including attendance at meetings.

The Fund has three part-time employees: a Grants Administrator, who works with applicants; a Bookkeeper, who prepares our financial reports and assists our auditors with the annual audit and IRS filings; a Communication and Marketing Director, who manages our website and provides design services.

Where is your office?

We don't have an office. Our staff perform their duties from their homes or other offices. Our mailing address is: St. John's Episcopal Church, 158 W. High Street, Somerville NJ 08876, which is where our limited collection of current records and materials are stored. Our legal address (for receiving legal notices and so forth) is: % Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, 425 Lexington Avenue, New York NY 10017.

Can I attend a meeting?

We welcome attendance at our meetings. The Spring and Fall board meetings, and the annual meeting, are held in Manhattan. The reorganization meeting is a virtual meeting. Locations, dates, and other instructions can be found on our website. However, the portion of any meeting devoted to reviewing grant applications or personnel matters is not open to non-board members.

If I am in need, or know a deacon in need, what do I do?

The application form and supporting information can be found on our website, www.fundfordiaconate.org, under "Apply for Aid". Our grants administrator, The Rev. Theresa Lewallen, will assist all applicants in completing our paperwork. She can be reached at grants@fundfordiaconate.org.

Who can I contact for more information?

Please contact the president, the Rev. Keith McCoy, at president@fundfordiaconate.org. He will either respond to your inquiry or forward it to the person who can address it more thoroughly.

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