



August 12, 2020

Dear Fellow Deacons,

On behalf of the Board and our staff, thank you for your ministry of service. Nearly 3300 deacons in The Episcopal Church help others who are in need in a wide variety of ways. Our mission is to serve those deacons who need financial assistance. We do this partly through providing grants, and partly by connecting those deacons with personal needs with diocesan resources. The Fund will contribute to the support of ten deacons this year, with over \$90,000 in grants. We consider and approve other applications as needed.

You receive this letter from the Fund every year because our founders, the deaconesses of our denomination, decided that every deaconess was automatically a member, and therefore eligible for support, if needed. No dues were necessary; money was raised from a variety of individuals, parishes, and organizations such as the UTO. Times have changed since 1927; we no longer have any deaconesses, but every deacon not further ordained is automatically a voting member. We still support deacons of The Episcopal Church in financial need, thanks to those funds raised many years ago.

This past Spring, in response to the economic hardship wreaked by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fund created a new program, the first in its ninety-three years of existence. The Emergency Grants Program provided a monthly stipend of \$525 to seventeen deacons, as of this writing, most for several months. We are in the process of reviewing how the program worked, and will consider if and how it may continue at our October board meeting.

We continue to develop our relationships with other groups. We work closely with the Association for Episcopal Deacons, and are working on some joint projects. Our conversations with the Church Pension Group have led to some improvements in their services to our community. We write every year to the diocesan bishops about what the Fund can do to help their deacons, and what they can do to support these ministers. We are a member of the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes, and are serving as a resource to them.

Those are the highlights. Please subscribe to AED's quarterly journal, *Diakoneo*, where we report more completely on our semi-annual board meetings and our activities. Also, visit our website at www.fundfordiaconate.org.

We ask for your prayers for the deacons we serve, as well as for us in our ministry to them. Please participate in our elections, and help us support the deacons of The Episcopal Church.

Yours in the Servant Christ,

Keith

The Rev. W. Keith McCoy

President