



KEY DATES FOR DEACONESSES, THE RETIRING FUND FOR DEACONESSES, AND THE FUND FOR THE DIACONATE



- 1857 September 27: Four deaconesses ordained by Bp. William Whittingham of Maryland: (Mary?) Evaline Black, Catherine Minard, Adeline Blanchard Tyler (12/8/1805 - 1/7?/1875), Carrie E. Guild (x/x18xx - 5/11/1880, Cambridgeport MA)
- 1862 July 18: Elizabeth Ferard ordained as a deaconess in the Church of England by Bp. Archibald Tait (London)
- 1864 Late December: Three deaconesses set apart/instituted by Bp. Richard Wilmer of Alabama
- 1868 General Convention first discusses deaconesses
- 1872 Seven deaconesses set apart by Bp. Abram Littlejohn of Long Island
- 1881 Deaconess House organized in Louisville KY
- 1885 January 6: Bp, Wilmer lays hands on/ordains Mary W. Johnson
- 1885 June 29: Bp. Wilmer lays hands on/ordains Mary Catherine Friggell
- 1889 Deaconesses authorized by General Convention
- 1913 Church Pension Fund created by General Convention; no provision made for Deaconesses
- 1919 General Convention recommends that deaconesses be included in the Church Pension Fund, but that board states deaconesses are not “clergy”.
- 1922 226 deaconesses alive in PECUSA, most of any year. By 1960, there were only 86 deaconesses alive.
- 1926 September 29: National Conferences of Deaconesses resolves that a Retiring Fund should be created to replace the Emergency Fund. Dss. Mary Crosby pledges \$100, and the other twenty-two present collect \$94.25. A committee was appointed to arrange for the incorporation of the new organization.
- 1927 September 30: Robert W. B. Elliot, Chancellor of the Diocese of New York, presents the Certificate of Incorporation and the Bylaws to the NCD. Those assembled (more than 57) voted to create *The Retiring Fund for Deaconesses of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America*. Legal papers were approved later that day by the NY Supreme Court.
- 1965 September 13: Dss. Phyllis Edwards invested and recognized as a deacon by Bp. James Pike of California.
- 1970 Last of some 500 deaconesses ordered (9/20: Shirley Woods - later priested); General Convention votes to ordain women as deacons instead.

- 197x Name changed to “The Retiring Fund for Women in the Diaconate in the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America.”
- 1990 After discussion about whether to disband the Retiring Fund, the members vote to allow male deacons to become members. Dns. Edwin (Ted) Hallenbeck and Shepherd Jenks subsequently elected to the board.
- 1998 Name changed to *The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church in the United States of America*.
- 1999 Dss. Frances Zielinski, last deaconess on the board, retires.
- 2011 Dn. Ted Hallenbeck becomes first deacon to be president of the Fund (deaconesses served as presidents from its inception until the early 1950’s, when laymen were elected).
- 2018 Name changed to *The Fund for the Diaconate of The Episcopal Church*, to recognize the diaconate in overseas dioceses.

Last edit: 9/9/19. More information will be added as it is discovered.