

R-1

Resolution: Creating Access for Deacons to Church Pension Fund Benefits

Whereas, the sacred order of deacons has ancient roots and was established in chapter six (6) in Acts of the Apostles; and

Whereas, deacons are an order of ordained ministry within the Episcopal Church exercising “a special ministry of servanthood” (Book of Common Prayer, 1979, p.543); and

Whereas, many deacons within the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana faithfully serve at congregations without pay or benefits; it is hereby

Resolved, that the 187th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana encourages each congregation to consider paying all active currently non-stipendiary deacons under the age of seventy-two (72), canonically resident in and serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, and with a current letter of agreement with the congregation or entity they serve, a minimum of \$25 per month, and pay assessments on their behalf to the Church Pension Fund to enable access to applicable benefits, beginning January 1, 2025; and be it further

Resolved, that compensation paid under this resolution should not replace payment on behalf of the deacon by the congregation or the diocese for the expenses associated with Diocesan Convention, Clergy Conference, continuing education, mileage reimbursement, and other expenses as may be established in a letter of agreement.

Rationalization:

The purpose of this resolution is to encourage congregations to pay active non-stipendiary deacons under seventy-two (72) years of age at least \$25 per month and associated Church Pension Fund assessments to enable access to applicable benefits. Currently, active non-stipendiary deacons are not given access to any benefits associated with Church Pension Fund. Following this resolution’s recommendation would open up access to such benefits.