



## Contributions Are Welcome

The Fund for the Diaconate performs a vital service for our Church by assisting those working, retired or disabled deacons who have insufficient funds for their needs. Your tax deductible contribution will be gratefully received, not only to support our present obligations but also to help provide for financial assistance to future generations of deacons.

Our gratitude goes to all who make it possible for The Fund to serve in this way.

To: The Fund for the Diaconate

I/we wish to make a gift to The Retiring Fund of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Payable:  Annually.       Semi-Annually.  
 Quarterly.       One-time gift.

I would like more information about the Fund's benefits.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Parish/Diocese \_\_\_\_\_

Send to: **The Fund for the Diaconate**  
**33 Old Fort Dr.**  
**Hilton Head, SC 29926**

## The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church in the United States

### Officers and Directors

*President* Mr. Christopher H. Gardephe, New York

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### For further information:

The Rev. Ellen Ross (*about the Fund*)  
106 Robin Road  
Council Bluffs, IA 51503

The Rev. William O. Jones (*for Grants*)  
8137 Brown Road  
Bon Air, VA 23235  
Tel: 804-272-4667

## The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church in the United States



## A HISTORY

74 Trinity Place, Room 606  
New York, NY 10006

# The Fund for the Diaconate of the Episcopal Church in the United States\*

## A HISTORY

The history of this fund was compiled from a booklet published in 1940, and relates the beginning of the Retiring Fund for Deaconesses. The outstanding feature of the Fund is that it was begun by the Deaconesses and carried out by them alone until its capital reached fifty thousand dollars. Administration was handled by members of the Order of Deaconesses until recently, when the Membership was opened to all Deacons (*female and male, in good standing with their Bishop*); with the Board of Directors now including both men and women deacons.

For several years prior to 1926, it was evident that the small Emergency Fund maintained by the National Conference of Deaconesses was insufficient to assist the number of Deaconesses who would need security for the future, either because of their retirement from active service or thru disability. A few had private income, several were taken care of by their parishes, and graduates of the Philadelphia Training School had a pension system which had to be supplemented. No general fund was available for the others.

When the Church Pension Fund was established by the General Convention in 1913 no provision was made to include deaconesses and it seemed unlikely that any change could be expected in that regard, although Lambeth Conference in 1930 and General Convention in 1931 both declared, *That the Order of Deaconesses is for women the one and only Order of Ministry which we can recommend our Branch of The Catholic Church to recognize.*

This situation was uppermost in everyone's mind when The National Conference of Deaconesses met at St. Faith's House, New York, on September 29, 1926. When it was resolved that a Retiring Fund should be created, Deaconess Mary A. Crosby pledged the first hundred dollars and an offering taken up from the twenty-two Deaconesses present amounted to \$94.25. The President of the Conference appointed a Committee to arrange for the incorporation of the Fund.

On September 30, 1927, at another meeting in the Library at St. Faith's House, the committee presented the Certificate of Incorporation and the By-Laws prepared by the Chancellor of the Diocese of New York. The seven members of the Executive Committee of The National Conference of Deaconesses signed the Certificate of Incorporation along with more than fifty Deaconesses. On the same day the Certificate of Incorporation was approved by the Supreme Court of New York and *The Retiring Fund for Deaconesses of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America* came into being.

The purpose for which the corporation was formed, as set forth in its certificate of incorporation, is as follows: The establishment, care and maintenance of a fund, the income of which shall be used to provide annuity or

allowance to Deaconesses of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America in good standing according to the

Canon of the Church who on their retirement from active service shall have insufficient provisions for their needs. In April 1990, after the By-Laws' changes were approved by two-thirds of the membership, the Retiring Fund was opened to male deacons. In 1998 the name was changed to the Fund for the Diaconate to better reflect the Fund's mission and focus.

Today, the Officers and Directors of the Corporation consist of a President, Vice President, Secretary, Asst. Secretary, and Treasurer. These officers include both deacons and lay persons, and are elected for one year at the Annual Meeting of the Corporation in September, taking office when elected. The Board of Directors, of which there are nine positions are filled by deacons, elected for terms of three years, three each year at the Annual Meeting in September, and also take office when elected.

The Annual Meeting of the Corporation is held in September. Members of the Corporation entitled to vote are all ordained deacons in the Episcopal Church in the United States who are canonically resident in a diocese. The Board also meets for its annual meeting in September, with a semi-annual meeting held in April.

The Fund performs a vital service for our Church by assisting deacons, working, retired or disabled who have insufficient funds for their needs. The Fund is administered by its Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Funds are distributed by periodic allowances based on individual needs. Special grants are made to cover emergencies, such as illness, dental care, disaster relief or other special needs..

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\* Originally titled, *The Retiring Fund for the Women in the Diaconate of the Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States.*

{Fund for the Diaconate - Cover v. 1}