

# Resolutions

## Resolution #1 Concerning Extinct Churches

**RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Title VII, Canon 3, Section VI, of the Canons of the Diocese of Long Island, the One Hundred Fortieth Convention of the Diocese of Long Island hereby declares the following churches extinct as there have been no persons belonging to, attending worship services or contributing to their support since the dates indicated:

- Church of the Holy Cross, Ridgewood, September 13, 1999
- Church of the Annunciation, Glendale, July 26, 2002
- St. Margaret's of Scotland, Fresh Meadows, October 18, 2004
- St. Francis of Assisi, Levittown, June 30, 2005

**Explanation:** *The named churches were closed on the respectively stated dates and, in accordance with canons, must be declared extinct by a vote of Convention.*

*Submitted by the Ven. Canon John E. Madden, Chair  
on behalf of  
Committee on Canons*

## Resolution #2 Concerning Pension Assessments

**RESOLVED**, that the 1937 (as amended 1970) standing Convention resolutions requiring (1) payment by the diocese of pension assessments on behalf of those clergy whose congregations are in arrears six months or more; and (2) that such payment become a charge against the account of said congregation be rescinded *ab initio* and be of no force and effect.

**Explanation:** *The diocese has neither the financial resources nor the authority to advance payments for pension arrears from the diocesan Convention budget. Additionally, the diocese does not have access to accounts of congregations against which such a charge could be made. The responsibility of fulfilling pension obligations lies with the employing congregation.*

*Submitted by the Ven. Canon John E. Madden, Chair  
on behalf of  
Committee on Canons*

**Resolution #3**  
**Concerning *Housing Equity Allowances for Clergy***

**RESOLVED**, that the 1987 standing Convention resolution requiring establishment of Housing Equity Accounts for clergy be amended as follows:

Housing Equity Allowance for Clergy (1987)

RESOLVED, that beginning in 1987, *a Clergy Housing Equity Account be established for all Canonically Resident clergy active in the Diocese of Long Island who are being provided with housing by the local Congregation or church employing agency, and are not receiving a housing allowance towards ownership in such housing, be paid a Housing Equity Allowance by the local Congregation or the church employing agency equal to 3% of the amount recorded as their "COMPENSATION" by the Church Pension Fund; and be it further*

~~RESOLVED, that the Trustees of the Estate be empowered by the 120th Convention of the Diocese to establish, control, and direct a fund to fulfill the intent of the above resolution together with such administrative regulations as may be needful, and be it further~~

*RESOLVED that the Episcopal Church Retirement Savings Plan, created by the Church Pension Fund, and more commonly known as the RSVP Program, be used as the vehicle for such accounts because of its favorable tax treatment to clergy; and be it further*

RESOLVED, that this be a Standing Resolution of the 120th Convention of the Diocese of Long Island.

**Explanation:** The Clergy Equity Fund Trust created in 1988 by the Trustees of the Estate for management and administration of these funds in accordance with the original resolution was a non-qualified deferred compensation plan and, as such, withdrawals from these accounts became taxable as ordinary income to clergy upon retirement. In recent years, the Church Pension created the *Episcopal Church Retirement Savings Plan (RSVP)*, a 403(b) tax deferred plan, which has special tax advantages to clergy in that distributions from the plan, upon retirement, are designated as housing, i.e., to the extent the funds are used for housing, they are not taxable. Accordingly, the Trustees of the Estate have dissolved the Clergy Equity Fund Trust and direct congregations to utilize the tax-advantaged RSVP program for these accounts.

*Submitted by the Very Rev. David B. Lowry*  
*on behalf of*  
*The Trustees of the Estate Belonging to the Diocese of Long Island*

**Resolution #4**  
**Concerning 2007 Base Diocesan Compensation**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Base Diocesan Compensation for 2007 be increased from 2006 figures by a 5% Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) in accordance with the following table:

**BASE SALARY AND EMOLUMENTS**  
**THE DIOCESE OF LONG ISLAND**

CATEGORY	ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY IN CHARGE OF CURES	ALL FULL-TIME CLERGY IN CHARGE OF CURES	ALL FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS	ALL FULL-TIME ASSISTANTS
	2007	2006	2007	2006
<b>BASE CASH SALARY</b>	\$40,132	\$38,221	\$34,110	\$32,486
<b>HOUSING ALLOWANCE</b> (Where <b>NO</b> church housing is provided)	<b>50% of Base Cash Salary (includes utilities)</b>			
<b>BASE SOCIAL SECURITY CONTRIBUTION</b> (7.65% Of Base Cash Salary & Housing Allowance Where Provided)	\$3,070	\$2,924	\$2,609	\$2,485
<b>AUTOMOBILE &amp; TRAVEL ALLOWANCE</b> (10% of Base Cash Salary)	\$4,013	\$3,822	\$3,411	\$3,249
<b>UTILITIES</b> (Gas, Heat, Electric, Water and Telephone)	<b>Congregations are to cover the cost of utilities in church provided housing. Where no church housing is provided, the 50% Housing Allowance above includes utilities.</b>			
<b>PENSION ASSESSMENT</b>	<b>18% of Total Base Compensation as defined by the Church Pension Fund</b>			
<b>LIFE INSURANCE</b> ((\$50,000 Group Term)	<b>\$456.00</b> (This is <u>in addition to</u> the \$50,000 coverage provided at no cost by the Church Pension Fund to all active clergy)			
<b>HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS</b>	Ranging from \$5,244 to \$24,096 annually (Depends on plan selected and number of dependents)			
<b>HOUSING EQUITY ACCOUNT</b>	A <i>Housing Equity Account</i> is to be established for clergy living in church-provided housing. The annual amount to be contributed is 3% of the clergy's total compensation as defined by the Church Pension Fund.			
<b>VACATION</b>	<b>One month (to include 5 Sundays)</b>			
<b>SABBATICAL LEAVE</b>	<b>6 weeks full base package for every 5 years of completed service</b> (for the purpose of study, rest and/or travel)			
<b>CONTINUING EDUCATION ALLOWANCE AND PAID LEAVE</b>	<b>\$600 and 6 days per year</b> (In addition to vacation)			
<b>SUPPLY CLERGY:</b> \$150.00 per service, plus reimbursement at the standard mileage rate established by the IRS for business mileage <b>OR Actual Cost</b> if public transportation is used.				

**Explanation:** The Office of Finance and Administration has determined that the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for 2007 will be 5%. This is based on the change, from July 2005 to July 2006, in the Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers, as published by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics for the New York - Northern NJ - Long Island Region. The base, i.e., minimum starting cash salary, has been adjusted accordingly.

Submitted by  
Commission on Clergy Salaries