

**Amend Canon 5.2: Reduce the Amount of DPA for certain brackets.  
Proposed by the Rev. Steve Tyson, Emmanuel, Coos Bay**

CANON 5.2  
OF THE DIOCESAN PROGRAM FUND

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that Canon 5.2, Sec. 3 be amended as follows (stricken material to be removed and material in italics to be inserted):

Sec. 1. There shall be a Diocesan Program Fund which shall be used for the payment of the expenses of Convention, the charges of the General Convention, the Bishop's salary, all administrative costs of the Diocese of Oregon, the Assessment levied by the Executive Council, for all Diocesan Missionary projects, and for all charges incurred by the Diocese of Oregon.

Sec. 2. The Diocesan Program Fund shall be derived from all interest received from the Episcopal Endowment Fund and other investments, from grants, contributions, and gifts, and from the Diocesan Program Assessments.

Sec. 3. A Diocesan Program Assessment shall be paid by each Parish and Mission, based upon the amount of General Purpose Income received by each during the month immediately preceding that in which the assessment is due, less amounts of General Purpose Income used for repayment of principal on long-term indebtedness incurred for capital improvements and less amounts of General Purpose Income used for the cost of New Ministry.

General Purpose income shall include:

All plate offerings, loose offerings, unpledged or undesignated offerings, and all Easter and Christmas offerings, if for general purposes;

All amounts designated for the Diocesan or General Church Program;

All undesignated receipts from any parish group;

All gifts designated for any parish operating expense and for Diocesan or General Church Program;

All Diocesan support for the parish budget, except support for Clergy compensation;

All investment and endowment income, dividends, interest, or net rental income, available for parish operating expenses and/or the Diocesan and General Church Program;

All interest credited to a savings account whose purpose is the support of the parish's general purpose expenses;

Any income (e.g., from cemeteries, columbaria, or special grants from non-Church sources) which can be used for operating expenses, or for the Diocesan and General Church Program.

For the purposes of this section, "New Ministry" is defined as the addition of an assistant in direct ministry, either a Member of the Clergy or lay, at half time (or more), or a Mission Vicar moving from half time to two-thirds time or more. "The cost of New Ministry" is defined, for Members of the Clergy as stipend, housing and utilities only; and for lay persons, as salary only.

The reduction in General Purpose Income for the cost of New Ministry shall be with the consent of the Bishop and may be made for not more than five years from the date of the addition of the assistant in direct ministry or change in time for a Vicar or for as long as the New Ministry continues. If the New Ministry terminates before the end of five years, the reduction shall terminate at the same time. In no case may the reduction for the cost of New Ministry exceed an accumulative period of five years.

If such income exceeds:	But does not exceed:	The payment shall be:
<del>\$0</del>	<del>\$3,333 (\$40,000/year)</del>	<del>16% thereof.</del>
<del>\$3,333 (\$40,000/year)</del>	<del>\$4,167 (\$50,000/year)</del>	<del>17% thereof.</del>
<del>\$4,167 (\$50,000/year)</del>	<del>\$5,000 (\$60,000/year)</del>	<del>18% thereof.</del>
<del>\$5,000 (\$60,000/year)</del>	<del>\$5,833 (\$70,000/year)</del>	<del>19% thereof.</del>
<del>\$5,833 (\$70,000/year) and up</del>		<del>20% thereof.</del>

\$ 0	\$1,500 (\$18,000 year)	10% thereof
\$1,501 (\$18,012 year)	\$2,500 (\$30,000 year)	12% thereof
\$2,501 (\$30,012 year)	\$3,333 (\$39,996 year)	14% thereof
\$3,334 (\$40,008 year)	\$4,167 (\$50,004 year)	17% thereof
\$4,168 (\$50,016 year)	\$5,000 (\$60,000 year)	18% thereof
\$5,000 (\$60,000 year)	\$5,833 (\$70,000 year)	19% thereof
\$5,833 (\$70,000 year) and up		20% thereof

Any underpayment or overpayment shall be adjusted on the basis of the annual Parochial Report.

Sec. 4. If the total Diocesan Program Assessment computed pursuant to the rates herein set forth, together with all other income available to the Diocese, provides an amount less than the total sum needed to meet the budget approved by the Convention, the Diocesan Council shall modify the budget as necessary to bring about a balance between income and expenditures. If the total Diocesan Program Assessment collected, computed at the rates set forth in this Canon, exceeds the amount necessary to meet the budget adopted by Convention, Diocesan Council shall determine how the surplus is used.

Sec. 5. Any motion or resolution from the floor of Convention which would increase any item in the budget submitted by the Diocesan Council, or which would add to the budget any item requiring funding, must include in the resolution or motion an estimate of cost and a means of funding the increase or addition. Any such motion or resolution shall require a three-fourths vote of the members present. Any motion or resolution from the floor of Convention which proposes funding a new item or an increase in an existing item by reducing another item in the budget shall likewise require a three-fourths vote of the members present.

Sec. 6. Each Parish and Mission of this Diocese shall send to the Treasurer of the Diocese a statement of the previous month's General Purpose Income and its Diocesan Program Assessment payment not later than the 15th of each month, and if not so paid, such Parish or Mission shall be delinquent. If a congregation's Program Assessment is more than two months delinquent, the Bishop shall provide such counsel to the congregation as the Bishop deems advisable. The Diocesan Council, with the consent of the Bishop, may cancel all or part of the Assessments delinquent for longer than two years and forgive the filing of all or part of delinquent required statements of General Purpose Income.

## **RATIONALE**

It is very important for the Episcopal Church and for our Diocese to have a vital presence in the smaller towns in western Oregon. The small size of these congregations usually causes financial challenges in physically being the church. Almost all of our smallest churches receive no assistance from our diocese. Christ calls us particularly to proclaim the Gospel to everyone, everywhere, no matter who, no matter where, intentionally reaching out to the smallest, least

significant. The restructuring of the DPA schedule will give our smallest churches a little financial break and symbolically tell them that they do matter and we, the diocese, do care.

**IMPLICATIONS/FINANCIAL IMPACT**

In 2005, the application of this canonical change would have resulted in \$17,000 less in DPA payments to our common mission.

**RECOMMENDATION OF COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION AND CANONS  
DO NOT PASS**

**RATIONALE**

The proposed canonical change will reduce income to the Diocese of Oregon without provision to offset this budget reduction.