

TITLE: 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation and Benefits Policy of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i

SPONSOR: Diocesan Compensation Review Commission

BE IT RESOLVED that this the 57th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i, adopt the attached 2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation and Benefits Policy of the Episcopal Diocese of Hawai‘i.

RATIONALE/EXPLANATION

The Diocese of Hawai‘i establishes clergy minimum guidelines to assist churches in determining compensation which preserves purchasing power adjusted for inflation. This adjustment, as reflected in the proposed matrix, is intended to attract, retain and support clergy in their role and growth as faithful ministers of the Gospel and in their pastoral care of the church and its members. It includes the employer’s portion of the SECA (Self-Employment Contributions Act) tax on self-employment. Churches are free to offer their clergy compensation above the minimum as they consider appropriate and as financial resources allow. Congregations are strongly encouraged to talk honestly with their clergy about ministerial performance and take this into consideration in compensation. The Mutual Ministry Review is a useful tool in this regard.

However, each year the cost-of-living increases, and unless an adjustment is made to reflect those additional costs the existing compensation of clergy is effectively reduced. The Diocesan Compensation Review Commission uses the Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for Honolulu (CPI-W – Urban Wage Earners and Clerical) as its reference for the effects of inflation on clergy in Hawai‘i. Honolulu is the single metropolitan area in Hawai‘i tracked by BLS and therefore provides the only objective measure of inflation effects in our economic environment. This figure is released every two months and shows the year-over-year percentage increase in consumer price index through the month preceding. This enables the Commission to observed trends as well as specific data.

Traditionally recommendations for annual adjustment have assumed that factors affecting Hawai‘i’s CPI will be fundamentally similar to those in the immediate past. Such is not the case in 2025 for 2026. U.S. economic and trade policies continue to be adjusted with no evident objective or endpoint. Likewise the response of those affected remains in flux, and the consequences of the outcome is indeterminate. Recent CPI-W Honolulu figures suggest a healthy economy, as both businesses and households buy in anticipation of higher prices later. As a result, increased supply has been able to meet increased demand without price increases. Yet it is inevitable that prices will increase as the supply of available goods decreases and the cost increases of tariffs are passed to consumers. When and to what degree this will happen cannot be forecast at this point. As a result, the Commission reflects on longer term experience for its clergy minimum recommendation. The CPI-W for Honolulu in 2024 was 4.4%, and the average over the past five years is 4.1%. Based on this information, the Commission recommends an adjustment in 2026 of 4.0%, as reflected in the proposed matrix.

The Minimum Clergy Compensation matrix as presented in the policy has been used for several years. The difference between two adjoining elements of the matrix, either horizontally or vertically, is roughly 10%. While there has been little concern expressed with this structure, the Commission will continue to examine the matrix to insure it represents best thinking within the Diocese.

The Commission is also recommending that the Supply Clergy rates be adjusted 4% higher.

Everything else in 2026 remains the same as what was adopted at the 56th Annual Meeting of the Convention.

The policy starts on the next page.

2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation and Benefits Policy of the
Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

The minimum clergy compensation for 2026 is outlined in the matrix below. It represents a 4% increase from 2025 minimums.

2026 Minimum Clergy Compensation (Employer portion of) SECA INCLUDED
The Episcopal Diocese of Hawai'i

Compensation				
Category	0 thru 4 Years Minimum	5 thru 9 Years Minimum	10 thru 19 Years Minimum	20+ Years Minimum
1	121,056	136,068	151,176	163,164
2	110,052	123,720	137,460	148,416
3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736

Compensation includes salary, housing and utilities and the employer's portion of the SECA tax.

Numbers are rounded so that when divided by 12 months, the monthly amount is a whole number

Congregations are strongly encouraged to take their clergy's gifts, talents, and progress toward goals, into consideration when determining salary increases, and to talk honestly with their clergy about ministerial performance and take that into consideration in their compensation. It is strongly recommended that annual salary negotiations at the church level be carried out with prayerful candor, clarity and, most importantly, in Christian love.

The following appendices are attached.

- A. 2026 Compensation based on 2024 Parochial Report data in alphabetical order by church
- B. Congregational compensation categories and computation worksheet
- C. Examples and some definitions
- D. Mutual Ministry Review

Throughout this document "workweek" refers to five (5) days for a full-time rector. For part-time clergy employees, refer to the cleric's Letter of Agreement (for example, if a part-time cleric works 3 days each week, a "workweek" of vacation would also be 3 days).

1) FULL-TIME POSITIONS

- a) The compensation categories and ranges are intended to be used as a framework within which the Vestry/Bishop's Committee and the clergy negotiate a mutually acceptable compensation. The compensation ranges are based on "years of service" to provide a guide for compensation increases as years of service increase. This compensation schedule sets the minimum for churches in the Diocese of Hawai'i. "Years of service" means the number of years of status as a clergyperson in good standing in The Episcopal Church. In Parishes, compensation is negotiated between the clergyperson and the vestry. For Missions, compensation is negotiated between clergy and the Bishop's Committee with the approval of the Bishop. Credit for prior years of service as an ordained person in good standing in another denomination is negotiated between the clergy and the

Vestry/Bishop's Committee with the approval of the Bishop. With respect to clergy newly called or appointed to a congregation, the Vestry/Bishop's Committee is required to notify the Diocesan Support Center as to the number of years of service at which they enter the Compensation Schedule approved by Diocesan Convention

- b) Clergy in charge of parishes or missions must be paid at least the minimum of the applicable category with salary reviews at least annually. Congregations and clergy should schedule and hold a biennial Mutual Ministry Review, complete with clear goals and objectives, mutual accountabilities and shared expectations by both the laity and the clergy.
- c) These categories are minimums and should be used as a starting point for salary negotiations. Vestries/Bishop's Committees shall seriously consider appropriate compensation.
- d) For ease of administration, all compensation figures will be rounded up into amounts divisible by 12.
- e) For clergy who are paid a cash housing allowance, the amount of housing allowance shall be determined by the clergy and each Vestry/Bishop's Committee, working in consultation with their clergy, shall approve a resolution determining housing allowances. The housing allowance adjustment called for in the resolution is enacted only on money earned after the resolution is passed. Typically, this Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requirement shall be completed by December 31 for the following year.
- f) The value of Church-supplied housing shall be determined on a case-by-case basis at the congregational level.
- g) The minimum compensation for full-time assistants, associates or curates shall be the amount reflected in the Minimum Clergy Compensation and Benefits Policy using years of service and a Category 4 congregation.
- h) Clergy must not be paid less than the previous year, unless there is a change to time/work hours.

2) PART-TIME POSITIONS

- a) Part-time clergy in charge of congregations will be paid according to the applicable range above, times the percent as agreed for the position.

BENEFITS

1) FULL-TIME EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- a) Automobile expenses will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate of cents per mile.
- b) The congregation will pay the mandatory Church Pension Fund Assessment for clergy per Church Pension Group (CPG) requirements or criteria.
- c) Group Life Insurance is provided by the Church Pension Fund to clergy at no cost to the congregation.
- d) The following apply to full-time employees (both clergy and lay employees) who work at least 40 hours per week.
 - i) The congregation generally offers full-time employees the Diocesan Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) Plan (for exceptions, please apply to the Diocesan Support Center). Under the plan, the congregation pays for full family medical coverage.

- ii) Spousal health insurance coverage: If the spouse or civil union partner of a clergy or lay employee is employed and insurance is provided (offered and paid for) by the spouse's or civil union partner's employer, the spouse or civil union partner will not be covered at the church's or Diocese's expense. If the employed spouse or civil union partner declines coverage from his/her employer and chooses to be on the church's or Diocese's plan, the employee is responsible for the spouse's or civil union partner's premium.
- iii) Dependent health insurance coverage: Dependents of eligible full-time employees are eligible for coverage under the Diocese's health plan up to the age of 26, regardless of the child's financial dependency, residency with the employee, student status, or employment. However, the Diocese does not offer dual coverage. Therefore, if a dependent is covered under another health plan the Diocese will not pay the premium for that dependent. The full premium for the dependent will need to be paid for by the employee for any dependent with dual coverage.
- e) The congregation will pay the cost of Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage.
- f) The Temporary Disability Insurance Plan for clergy is provided by the Church Pension Fund at no cost to the congregation.
- g) Full-time clergy are entitled to four (4) workweeks of annual vacation with full stipend and allowances. This vacation time cannot be more than six (6) workweeks in any one (1) year, except by the agreement of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee and with the consent of the Bishop in Aided Parishes and Missions (in other words, no more than two (2) work weeks can be carried over to the following year). If the cleric works less than a full calendar year, the vacation will be prorated. Congregations should encourage clergy to take vacation.
- h) Members of the clergy who have been employed by the church for at least one (1) full year are entitled to leave for the birth or adoption of a child for a minimum of eight (8) weeks with full compensation. Up to an additional four (4) workweeks may be taken without pay, or using vacation or sick time. If both clergy spouses are employed at the same employer within the Diocese, they are limited to a combined total of sixteen (16) workweeks of paid Parental Leave. Leave must be taken within twelve (12) months of the birth or adoption.
- i) Clergy giving birth shall submit a claim for short-term disability through the Church Pension Group, which will reimburse the employer for 70% of the cleric's total compensation figure (up to \$1,000/week) for up to twelve (12) weeks. Adoptive parents will receive the same time off with pay as birth parents, but will not be entitled to file a disability claim.

2) PART-TIME EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

- a) Automobile expenses will be reimbursed at the current IRS rate of cents per mile.
- b) The congregation will pay the mandatory Church Pension Fund assessment per CPG requirements or criteria.
- c) Part-time employees (both clergy and lay employees) who work at least 20 hours per week for four consecutive weeks are eligible for coverage on the Diocesan HMO plan at no cost to the employee.
- d) Spousal health insurance coverage: Spouses or civil union partners of part-time employees are not eligible for coverage.

- e) Dependent health insurance coverage:
 - i) Dependents of part-time employees who work at least 30 hours per week are eligible for coverage under the Diocese's health plan up to age 26, regardless of the dependent's financial dependence, residency with the employee, student status, or employment. The employee is responsible for the full premium for his/her dependent's coverage.
 - ii) Dependents of part-time employees who work less than 30 hours per week are not eligible for coverage under the Diocese's health plan.
- f) The congregation will pay the cost of Worker's Compensation Insurance coverage.
- g) The Temporary Disability Insurance Plan for part-time clergy is provided by the Church Pension Fund.
- h) Part-time clergy are entitled to four (4) workweeks of annual vacation with agreed stipend and allowances. This vacation time cannot be more than six (6) workweeks in any one year except by the agreement of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee and with the consent of the Bishop in Aided Parishes and Missions (in other words, no more than two (2) workweeks can be carried over to the following year). If the cleric works less than a full calendar year, the vacation will be prorated. Congregations should encourage clergy to take vacation.

3) OTHER

- a) Moving Expenses: Clergy will receive an allowance for moving expenses from the US mainland, typically in the range of \$12,000 to \$20,000 depending on location.
- b) Sabbatical: Clergy are eligible for sabbatical leave at the ratio of one month per year of service in the congregation, to be available after the third year, and cumulative through the fourth year. The maximum amount of leave is limited to four months. The Vestry/Bishop's Committee shall annually budget funds to accumulate to provide pastoral and sacramental supply during the clergyperson's sabbatical leave. Sabbatical leaves are provided for the benefit of both the congregation and clergy. Thus, before a sabbatical leave is granted, clergy must agree to serve the congregation for at least one year upon returning from the sabbatical. In addition, the request for sabbatical must be accompanied by a full and detailed description of the activities to be undertaken during the leave and, if granted, clergy shall submit to the Bishop and the Vestry/Bishop's Committee at the end of the leave, a report on the accomplishments of the leave. Accrued but not taken sabbatical leave can be carried over to following years in the same parish/mission. Accrued but not taken sabbatical leave is not paid out at retirement.
- c) Continuing Education: Clergy are required by Canon and Diocesan policy to continue their education. The congregation should provide funds in its annual budget for this continuing education. The minimum recommended amount is \$1,061/year. This amount should accumulate if unused and may carry over to the next year. This fund should also be available for sabbatical expenses.

SUPPLY CLERGY COMPENSATION

The minimum compensation for Saturday evening/Sunday supply clergy shall be as follows:

1. One service: \$217
2. Two services: \$291
3. Each additional service: \$145
4. Clergy will be reimbursed for travel (mileage, airfare, etc.), overnight parking and housing (if necessary).

APPENDIX A

2026 COMPENSATION BASED ON 2024 PAROCHIAL REPORT DATA

ALPHABETICAL

CHURCH	No. of Pledging Units	Avg Sunday Attend	Plate+Pledge Income	Weighted Totals	BARC	Categories	0 thru 4 years	5 thru 9 years	10 thru 19 years	20+ years
ALL SAINTS	45	73	221,382	0	106	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
CALVARY	7	14	28,727	0	16	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
CHRIST CHURCH	45	43	172,601	3	86	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
CHRIST MEMORIAL	24	33	71,370	0	41	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
EMMANUEL	43	34	142,820	3	73	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
EPIPHANY	53	66	163,522	0	90	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
GOOD SAMARITAN	21	25	74,578	1	39	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
GOOD SHEPHERD	66	94	192,262	12	124	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
GRACE	10	20	104,627	0	41	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
HĀLAU WA'A	22	44	68,649	4	47	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
HOLY APOSTLES'	48	66	267,487	5	124	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
HOLY NATIVITY	22	51	129,133	8	71	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. ANDREW'S	85	187	1,330,618	19	508	1	121,056	136,068	151,176	163,164
ST. AUGUSTINE'S	17	44	51,594	8	43	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S	55	73	19,113	5	55	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. CLEMENT'S	38	64	208,236	4	101	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
ST. ELIZABETH'S	75	109	106,000	0	95	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
ST. JAMES'	143	171	574,670	24	305	1	121,056	136,068	151,176	163,164
ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST	11	27	43,008	0	25	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. JOHN THE DIVINE	52	70	5,951	10	54	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. JOHN'S, KULA	57	76	207,720	1	109	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
ST. JOHN'S BY/SEA	10	20	42,320	1	24	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. JUDE'S	21	26	65,045	1	37	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. LUKE'S	19	15	49,904	0	27	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. MARK'S	56	104	289,544	9	149	2	110,052	123,720	137,460	148,416
ST. MARY'S	0	36	56,126	7	35	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. MATTHEW'S	3	14	27,735	1	15	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. MICHAEL'S	41	51	300,486	2	124	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
ST. PAUL'S	38	128	288,756	13	153	2	110,052	123,720	137,460	148,416
ST. PETER'S	64	82	381,843	3	168	2	110,052	123,720	137,460	148,416
ST. STEPHEN'S	10	40	50,428	5	36	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
ST. TIMOTHY'S	50	75	204,609	7	111	3	99,996	112,632	125,148	135,252
TRINITY BY/SEA	39	47	104,501	1	62	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736
WEST KAUAI	19	62	80,400	3	53	4	92,628	103,044	114,468	122,736

APPENDIX B

CONGREGATIONAL COMPENSATION CATEGORIES

<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>WEIGHTED FIGURES (SEE (E) BELOW)</u>
4	1 TO 90
3	91 TO 140
2	141 TO 230
1	231 and above

**CONGREGATIONAL COMPENSATION CATEGORY
COMPUTATION WORKSHEET**

Number of Pledging Units

Number of Pledging Units _____

Multiplied by .40 = _____ (A)

Average Sunday Attendance

Average Sunday Attendance _____

Multiplied by .30 = _____ (B)

Plate and Pledge Income

Plate and Pledge Income in \$1,000 _____

Multiplied by .30 = _____ (C)

BARC (Total Baptisms, plus receptions and confirmations)

Plus BARC= _____ (D)

TOTAL OF WEIGHTED FIGURES (A + B + C + D = E) _____ (E)

Anyone who has questions on how to use these worksheets and compensation categories, ranges and tables may contact the Diocesan Clergy Compensation Review Committee Chair, and/or the Rev. Cn. Sandy Graham, Canon to the Bishop.

APPENDIX C

Examples:

1. Clergy with 5 years of service is called to serve in a Category 4 church. Minimum compensation should be \$103,044. As a minimum this should be used as a starting point in the negotiation. Vestries/Bishop's Committees should seriously consider appropriate compensation.
2. Clergy with 20 years of service is called to serve in a Category 2 Parish. Minimum compensation should be \$148,416. As a minimum this should be used as a starting point in the negotiation. Vestries/Bishop's Committees should seriously consider appropriate compensation.
3. Clergy with 25 years of service is called to serve as a part salary vicar in a Category 4 Mission. The position is for 50% of salary. Minimum compensation should be \$61,386 (\$122,736 divided by 2 = \$61,368). As a minimum this should be used as a starting point in the negotiation. Vestries/Bishop's Committees should seriously consider appropriate compensation.
4. Clergy with 2 years of service is called to serve in a Category 3 church. Minimum compensation should be \$99,996. However, due to the parameters of the search and the scarcity of applicants, the congregation agreed to pay the clergy \$110,000.

Some Definitions:

Years of service is defined as the number of years since ordination to the diaconate or the number of years since the clergy person's orders were received into the Episcopal Church. Years of service for clergy ordained in churches in full communion with the Episcopal Church is defined as the number of years since ordination to the diaconate.

Years of service for ELCA pastors serving the diocese is defined as years since ordination as a Lutheran pastor.

If the clergy person was ordained mid-year the years of service on January 1st of the year being used for budgeting purposes is rounded down. (For example: a person ordained 4.5 years as of January 1st would be determined to have 4 years of service for budgeting purposes.)

APPENDIX D

Regarding Mutual Ministry Review: Compensation provides a means by which Congregations enable Priests to exercise and express a professional vocation entrusted by God and affirmed by the Church. Inherent to the sacred trust shared by Priest and Congregation is the mutuality and accountability of communion. The following schedule and terms articulate the shape and expression of this mutuality and communion by providing the minimum expectations of compensation and professional support, according to various conditions necessary for life and ministry in the Diocese of Hawai'i. These minimum expectations articulate the base by which we support and affirm the ministry and leadership of our Priests. As an important part of our mutuality of ministry and life in communion, compensation must be considered and developed with clear expectations of ministry and presence. In order to achieve this, all Priests providing ministry and leadership beyond supply ministry will have a mutually agreed-upon Letter of Agreement, Position Description (to include a statement of ministry and professional goals), and biennial Mutual Ministry Review. This Mutual Ministry Review should discern and provide for the continued mutual life, ministry and vitality shared by Priest and Congregation.

Materials, resources, and guidance for Letters of Agreement, Position Descriptions, and Mutual Ministry Reviews are available from the Diocesan Support Center.

An agreement among the Clergy, Wardens and Vestry/Bishop's Committee to a biennial discussion and mutual review of the total ministry of the Parish/Mission allows for the following:

- The opportunity to assess how well they are fulfilling their responsibilities to each other and to the ministry they share,
- The establishment of goals for the work of the Parish/Mission for the coming year(s),
- The identification of areas of conflict or disappointment that may be adversely affecting mutual ministry which may then be addressed appropriately, and
- The clarification of expectations of all parties to help reduce possible future conflicts and if any occur, make them more manageable.