

Episcopal Diocese of Florida
Seminarian Financial Support Policy
Effective Date: October 27, 2025
Approved by: Standing Committee/Diocesan Council

Purpose

The Episcopal Diocese of Florida is committed to supporting the theological education and spiritual formation of those called to ordained ministry in the Episcopal Church. This policy outlines the standards and procedures for financial support for seminarians, with considerations for different types of seminary education and expectations of service within the Diocese.

Eligibility

Applicants for seminarian support must:

- Be postulants or candidates for Holy Orders, officially recognized by the Diocese of Florida.
 - Be enrolled in an accredited Episcopal seminary or in a program approved by the Ecclesiastical Authority.
 - Remain in good standing both academically and canonically throughout their seminary education.
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Types of Seminary Education and Support Levels

(All support is subject to the Service Commitment and Repayment Policy provisions described below)

Type of Seminary	Annual Minimum Support	Notes
Residential Seminary	\$5,000 per academic year	Requires full-time enrollment; applicable to tuition, books, and some living expenses.

Type of Seminary	Annual Minimum Support	Notes
Hybrid/Low-Residency	\$3,000 per academic year	Includes programs such as General Seminary’s hybrid M.Div. program or similar programs; applicable to tuition, books, and travel for residencies.
Fully Online Seminary	\$2,000 per academic year	Includes accredited, online-only M.Div. or Anglican Studies programs; applicable to tuition and books.

Note: Annual support amounts are subject to availability of diocesan funds, the recommendation of the Commission on Ministry (COM), and approval of the Ecclesiastical Authority and the seminarian’s Clergy sponsor.

Additional Support Opportunities

- Seminarians may be eligible for additional scholarships through the **Church Pension Group, Episcopal Church Women (ECW)**, and local parish support.
- The diocese encourages seminarians to apply for **external grants** and financial aid offered by the seminaries themselves.

Service Commitment and Repayment Policy

1. Commitment to Serve

Recipients of diocesan seminary support are expected to:

- Seek ordination to the priesthood in the Diocese of Florida.
- Be available to serve a minimum of **three years** in a clerical role within the diocese upon ordination.

2. Repayment Clause

In the event that the seminarian:

- **Is not ordained**, or
- **Chooses not to serve in the Diocese of Florida** after ordination (without an exemption from the Ecclesiastical Authority), then the Diocese reserves the right to request **partial or full repayment** of the support funds disbursed.

Repayment Terms:

- Total repayable amount will be prorated based on years served in the Diocese of Florida post-ordination.
 - Repayment period will typically be up to **5 years**, interest-free.
 - Special circumstances (e.g., health, family relocation, denial of candidacy) may be considered for full or partial forgiveness at the discretion of the Ecclesiastical Authority.
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Application and Disbursement

- Applications must be submitted annually with:
 - A letter of request
 - Seminary enrollment verification
 - Budget of estimated expenses
 - Funds are disbursed directly to the seminary, unless otherwise approved (if justified, direct disbursement may be available).
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Review and Oversight

- The **Commission on Ministry (COM)** will review the policy annually.
 - The Ecclesiastical Authority retains ultimate authority in all decisions regarding seminarian support and exemptions.
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Contact Information

For questions or to apply for seminarian support, contact:

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