

Diocesan Retirement Allowance Fund

This Fund was established as of January 1, 1981 with the transfer of \$50,000.00 from a fund which no longer exists, known as The Clergy Retirement Housing Fund. This latter Fund consisted of monies raised on the initiative of the then Bishop of Toronto, The Most Reverend Lewis S. Garnsworthy who was concerned about housing for retired clergy. The original concept and the underlying purpose of this fund is to assist retired clergy in securing housing on retirement – presumably as a contribution toward a down payment.

Although it is designated The Diocesan Retirement Allowance Fund, it is actually only an account. There is no endowment and both capital and income are disbursed as required to meet the current criteria. Eligibility for the retirement allowance is based on 20 years full-time service. The current allowance is a lump sum payment of \$22,000 gross (i.e. before income tax and statutory deductions). As of January each year a forecast of retirements is made – as long as 4 years in the future – and the conclusion reached in January, 1997 was that the maximum allowance could prudently remain at \$22,000. It must be appreciated however that there is no guarantee that this situation will continue indefinitely, and can be changed without future notice.

The rules governing the administration of the Fund are as follows:

1. Eligible clergy are those clerics holding the license of the Bishop of Toronto, and are office holders in the Diocese. Those clergy engaged by organizations other than the Diocese of Toronto do not qualify. The amount of the individual allowance is determined by multiplying the maximum allowance by a fraction, the numerator of which is the complete years of full-time service in the Diocese and the denominator 20.
2. If an individual has attained 20 years of service in the Diocese of Toronto, and moves to another Diocese, such individual would receive the retiring allowance paid by the Diocese in which the person is licensed at the time of retirement.
3. If a cleric dies holding office in the Diocese, the widow is entitled to the benefit that would have applied to the cleric. That is, the benefit based on the years of full-time, active service in the Diocese up to the date of death.
4. If a member of the clergy receives a retirement allowance on being awarded a disability pension and such member of the clergy returns to full-time service, the “years of service” will accumulate from the date of re-entry. In no case would the total amount received by the individual be greater than the maximum allowance due at normal retirement.
5. Clergy who retire with less than 20 years service are eligible for a prorated allowance provided that they retire from the Diocese of Toronto.

Questions regarding this fund should be directed to the Human Resource department.