Resolution for the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania

I. TYPE OF RESOLUTION:
Church Employee Compensation

II. TITLE & AUTHOR OF RESOLUTION:
Church Employee Compensation for the legacy Diocese of Bethlehem Congregations in The Episcopal Diocese of the Susquehanna for 2026
Joint Finance Working Group

III. RESOLUTION:
Resolved for the calendar year 2026, each geographic area corresponding to the former Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and the former Diocese of Bethlehem shall continue to use its existing compensation policies with an increase of 2.4%.

Be it resolved that the Cash Stipend Range for 2026 be as follows,

Parish Index	**Cash Stipend Range**
1 – 99	$43,666 - $52,453
100 – 250	$48,356 - $71,504
251 – 399	$57,869 - $89,083
400 – above	$78,096 - $126,449

Be it further resolved that the 2025 Parish Index calculation shall be used in 2026 for purposes regarding Clergy Compensation Cash Stipend calculation.

Be it further resolved that this convention recommends consideration be made for providing an 2.4% cost of living increase for lay employees and recommends consideration be made for additional merit increases for lay employees as performance and resources allow.

Be it further resolved that the Clergy Supply Schedule for 2026 be as follows:

Service	**Rate**
1 Service (Saturday or Sunday)	$175.00
2 Services (Saturday or Sunday)	$215.00
3 Services (Saturday or Sunday)	$235.00
1 Major Service (Holy Week, Christmas, Funeral)	$175.00
Midweek Service	$115.00

Be if further resolved that a Clergy Compensation Committee will be formed to develop a resolution on church employee compensation for the Diocese of the Susquehanna at its diocesan convention in 2026.

IV. SPONSORS
Finance Committee of the Diocese of Bethlehem
Diocesan Council

V. SUPPORTING INFORMATION
View the 2025 Parish Index sheet: https://diobeth.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/2025-Parish-Index.pdf