

FAIR SHARE POLICY

Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

General Description:

Fair Share is the self-imposed offering expected of congregations whereby they provide the Diocese of the Rio Grande with the revenues necessary for the funding of the ministries of the wider diocese. These include: central administration, education, outreach, and a variety of other missional diocesan activities. By it, the individual congregations of the diocese demonstrate their commitment to, and willingness to participate in, the wider mission and ministry of the Diocese as a whole in a covenanted relationship. This policy codifies what has been custom and practice in the Diocese of the Rio Grande.

Policies:

1. Individual congregations are expected to remain current in the payment of their Fair Share obligation.
2. The rate of Fair Share assessment is determined by Diocesan Convention.
3. No congregation may unilaterally alter its Fair Share obligation with respect to payment schedule, rate, or amount.
4. An individual congregation may, in exigency circumstances, request of the Bishop and Diocesan Council a suspension, deferment, or abrogation of their Fair Share obligation. Such a request must be supported by documentation, which may include: annual congregational budgets, income and expenditure reports, and balance sheet reports. The Rector or Vicar, together with the Wardens and Treasurer may be expected to meet with the Bishop's Finance Committee prior to any decision by Diocesan Council. The relief granted is normally for a stated period of time.
5. A congregation that is more than two months in arrears in its Fair Share obligation, without the approval of the Bishop and Diocesan Council, may be subject to the following actions:
 - a. Suspension of its right to participate in Diocesan Convention.
 - b. In the case of a parish, reduction to the status of "aided parish" or mission.
 - c. If any congregation is two months delinquent or more in arrears in its Fair Share payments, the Bishop and Diocesan Council may impose an unauthorized loan rate of 2% over the authorized loan rate.

Both of these actions are taken at the discretion of the Bishop and Diocesan Council.

Endorsed by Diocesan Council: January 22, 2014

Approved by Standing Committee: July 16, 2014