Proposed Addition to Canon 18, Diocese of Indianapolis

Add new Section 14:

> To evidence compliance with The Episcopal Church, Title III, Canons 6 and 8, with respect to a parish contributing financially to the preparation of persons nominated to be ordained, a parish that nominates a person for ordination to the priesthood shall provide at least $100/month ($1200 annually) for a person going to a seminary or such other formation process as the Bishop directs. Such financial support shall commence when the person officially begins seminary or other approved process.
>
> With respect to a person seeking ordination as a Deacon, the parish shall provide a minimum of 1/3 of the annual cost of the formation process (commencing when the person begins the formation process).

Background:

It is the obligation of the Parish, when nominating a person to the Bishop to be considered for ordination, to affirmatively provide financial support to the person.

The Episcopal Church, Title III: Of the Ordination of Deacons

> Canon 6 Sec. 2. Nomination A confirmed adult communicant in good standing, may be nominated for ordination to the diaconate by the person's congregation or other community of faith. (a) The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the Nominee's congregation or other community of faith committing the community to (1) pledge to contribute financially to that preparation, and (2) involve itself in the Nominee's preparation for ordination to the Diaconate. …

The Episcopal Church, Title III: Of the Ordination of Priests

> Canon 8 Sec. 2. Nomination. A confirmed adult communicant in good standing may be nominated for ordination to the Priesthood by the person's congregation or other community of faith. (a) The Nomination shall be in writing and shall include a letter of support by the Nominee's congregation or other community of faith committing the community to: (1) pledge to contribute financially to that preparation, and (2) involve itself in the Nominee's preparation for ordination to the Priesthood. …

There is nothing currently in the Diocesan Constitution or Canons that affirms or give guidance to this requirement. Given the recent concern around financial stresses for many clergy, including but not limited to, the amount of debt related to the ordination process, it has been recommended that this Diocese adopt a provision in our Canons that reaffirms the requirement of a parish, when nominating someone for ordination, to provide specific financial support to the person. The proposed addition to Canon 18 seeks to clarify and specify at least a minimal level

of financial support consistent with the existing obligations under TEC Canons. Of course, if a parish is able to provide a greater level of financial support, that would be greatly appreciated!