



The Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina

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Expected Financial Costs of Discernment, Seminary or Diaconal Training

It is the hope and expectation of the Bishop and the Commission on Ministry (COM) that the Aspirant and the Aspirant's congregation will begin a conversation early in the process to discuss the realistic sharing of these expenses. If a congregation lifts up a member of their congregation for Holy Orders, the congregation should be willing to offer that person significant financial support.

If the Aspirant is invited by the Bishop to continue in discernment:

- The psychological evaluation is scheduled (paid to the diocesan-appointed psychologist): **\$1,100**
- A PLDC is formed and trained for their work by a consultant appointed by the Bishop and the COM. (Note: this fee plus mileage [2025 IRS reimbursement rate of \$.70/mile] is paid by the congregation to the Diocese who pays the consultant): **\$150 plus mileage**

If the Rector and the PLDC affirm the Aspirant's call to Holy Orders and the Bishop invites the Aspirant to attend the retreat with the COM and the Standing Committee of the Diocese: (Note: This meeting begins on Friday morning and ends on Saturday which would require the Aspirant to take time from work to attend the entire session.)

- Oxford Background Check (paid to the Diocese): **\$350**
- Medical examination (paid to physician; cost is dependent upon Aspirant's health insurance): **\$350**
- Cost of room and board at first COM retreat: **\$125**

If the Aspirant is invited by the Bishop to return for a second retreat with the COM, the following expenses will be incurred: (Note: This meeting begins on Friday morning and ends on Saturday which would require the Aspirant to take time from work to attend the entire session.)

- Cost of second retreat (covers cost of room and board for Aspirant and his/her spouse, if applicable): **\$125 - \$250**

If the Aspirant receives Postulancy, the costs of formation:

- Deacons
 - IONA Formation Program: (3-year program @ \$2,200/year, plus books, vestments, travel, etc.) **\$1250**
- Priests
 - GRE **\$150**
 - IONA Formation Program for bi-vocational priests **\$1000**
 - Residential seminary application fees (estimated) **\$150**
 - Three years of residential seminary (estimated)* **\$60,000 - \$125,000+***

*(Note: this is calculated based on annual costs of \$20,000-\$35,000/year depending on which of the approved Episcopal seminaries one attends. This estimate does not include the cost of books, vestments, or other incidental living expenses. It also does not take into consideration scholarships which may be available through the seminaries that would reduce the cost.)

- Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) fees: **\$750**

If the Postulant receives Candidacy

- Updated psychological and medical examinations may be required again per the Canons prior to Ordination.

