

Clergy Pension Basics

For clergy regularly employed for five or more consecutive months, the Canons of the Church require payment of pension assessment by church employers of 18% of Total Assessable Compensation (TAC). On January 1, 2018 the Church Pension Group revised the calculation of TAC. CPG has published a helpful graphic detailing the elements of the calculation [at this link](#).

Please note:

1. This assessment is required by Canon Law to be paid for any clergy regularly employed by an Episcopal Church institution for five or more consecutive months. Assessments may be paid voluntarily by clergy not regularly employed for up to 24 months. See CPG's [Cost of Coverage](#) page for more details.
2. The revised [Clergy Pension Plan benefits guide](#) is available on the CPG website. It is highly recommended that all clergy make use of this publication to understand the contribution, pre-retirement planning, and active retirement phases of the CPG benefits.
3. All clergy should understand that there is a **two-year window** in which they can make corrections to compensation as reported to CPG. Once this period has passed, benefits are based on the locked-in figures.
4. **Two** different annual statements from CPG go to all clergy. These reports update clergy on known compensation, known employers and credited service time as a priest of the Church. It is the responsibility of the cleric to verify the information on these documents when they are received and to act if the information is not correct.
5. The Church Pension Fund, through their [website](#), provides the Episcopal Church clergy with a guide for the preparation of each year's taxes. This document can be given directly to an individual's tax preparer for clarification on clergy taxation.