

COMPENSATION GUIDELINES for 2017

British Columbia Synod-ELCIC

PART A:

I. PASTORS' SALARY GUIDELINES FOR BC

The Compensation Schedule for 2017 reflects cost-of-living adjustments that are based upon the Consumer Price Index for BC. The September 2015 – September 2016 CPI = 1.8%

A. Minimum base salary

The beginning number is the salary set by the British Columbia Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Canada as the minimum base salary figure. When computing a pastor's compensation, begin by selecting a figure in the table below.

| Years of Service | 2017 |
|------------------|--------|
| Newly Ordained | 39,119 |
| 1 | 39,669 |
| 2 | 40,219 |
| 3 | 40,771 |
| 4 | 41,322 |
| 5 | 41,873 |
| 6 | 42,424 |
| 7 | 42,975 |
| 8 | 43,526 |
| 9 | 44,077 |
| 10 | 44,628 |
| 11 | 45,179 |
| 12 | 45,711 |
| 13 | 46,280 |
| 14 | 46,830 |
| 15 | 47,383 |

Beyond the 15th year of service the increment is **\$150 for each year added** to the amount of year 15 **OR 1 paid day of vacation for each year** beyond year 15 added to the weeks of regular vacation (e.g. 16 years of service (using 2017 figures): \$47,383 + \$150 or 1 day vacation.)

The pastor and congregation/employer are to consider each other's needs in making their decision.

B. Salary Beyond Base

To the *base salary* figure should be added a figure determined by the council/employer that reflects additional training, skills or special congregational requirements (e.g. STM, DMin, Th.D., Ph.D., certified counselor, extra language, isolation, etc.). When the *salary-beyond* figure is added to the *base salary*, the council has the *total base salary* figure.

C. Partial Year

All salary and benefits are pro-rated based on a pastor's call with a given congregation or employer. Should the pastor accept a call to another congregation or employer, the calling congregation or employer will reimburse any expenses paid in full to the congregation that the pastor formerly served.

D. Housing

1. Adequate housing is provided in the compensation package either in the form of congregation-owned housing or a housing allowance.

Synod policy is that this housing allowance should be equal to the cost of renting accommodations in that area. When the congregation or employer provides a housing allowance, the actual amount the pastor

may claim as a tax free benefit is determined by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA). Please see CRA guidelines – Clergy Housing Deduction.

To request an exemption from withholding income tax deductions on the housing allowance, the pastor should submit a Letter of Authority to CRA by November 1st of the previous year, using the calculations from form T1223E part C to determine the exempt amount for the following year. CRA will confirm with the employing congregation via a Reduction of Income Tax Deduction at Source letter.

2. An equity allowance should be provided if the pastor lives in an employer-owned house. Each year a housing equity allowance reflecting the increase in property values should be offered. The amount should not be below \$1,800.00 per annum. This amount makes up part of the *total base salary* figure (I. B.) for pension calculation.

II. GUIDELINES FOR PASTORAL SUPPLY

Pastoral supply follows the following schedule:

1 service - \$175 plus mileage @ 52 cents per km.

2 services (same day) in the same congregation - \$225 plus mileage @ 52 cents per km.

A second service in a different language calls for a 50% addition to the first service.

WorkSafeBC:

WorkSafeBC (worker's compensation) is mandatory for all employees of the congregation/employer.

Employment Standards Act:

We urge all employers to avail themselves of the free Guide to the Employment Standards Act which defines: the Act, who is covered, hiring, payment of wages, keeping records, hours of work, overtime, flexible work schedules, statutory holidays, leaves and jury duty, annual vacation, clothing, termination, variances, complaints, enforcement measures and penalties, term, questions and addresses. It is the law of which ignorance is no excuse during disputes or in court.

Call 1-800-663-3316 (province-wide) or Vancouver area 604-660-4946 for your free copy. Or go to the website: <http://www.labour.gov.bc.ca/esb/>.

PART B:

HARMONIZED COMPENSATION GUIDELINES

The 2017 [harmonized compensation guidelines](#) were approved at National Church Council on September 9, 2016. The harmonized sections of the compensation guideline include:

- Vacation
- Leave of absence
- ELCIC Pension
- Group Benefits
- Continuing Education Plans
- Book and travel allowance/reimbursement

The harmonized compensation guidelines also include the sick leave policy and parental leave policy. For further information, please contact [ELCIC Group Services Inc.](#)

Please note that it is not the intention to diminish any employee's current entitlements due to the harmonization process. Transitional considerations need to be given on a case by case basis.

(Please note: Congregations of the BC Synod have up to two years to transition to the 100% employer paid extended health and dental premiums.)