

The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society Guidelines for Official Travel

*for Members of Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards of the General Convention;
the Executive Council of the General Convention; and Officers, Employees, Consultants and Volunteers
of The Episcopal Church*

As of January 1, 2009

Purpose

The purpose of travel guidelines is to encourage responsible use of, and accountability for, funds entrusted to the church for its governance and mission.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- **Requests for reimbursement must be submitted immediately, or no later than thirty (30) calendar days following completion of a trip or after incurring other travel and entertainment expenses. Processing may be delayed or denied for requests postmarked more than 30 days after a trip or expense.**
- Each properly documented request for reimbursement will be processed within ten (10) business days of receipt in the Controller's Department.
- All requests for reimbursement must be filed on the Travel and Expense Report and must be accompanied by **original receipts or e-invoices for ALL expenses other than tips. Summary credit card statements and other copies are not acceptable.**
- Travel and Expense Report forms are available on line at: [Travel and Expense Report Form](#).
- For control and audit purposes, exceptions to any policy relating to reimbursement may be approved only by the Treasurer or Controller.
- All ground transportation requires a receipt from a licensed transportation service (including bus, taxi or limousine service).
- "Petty Cash" disbursements will *not* be used for travel advances or reimbursements.
- All requests for reimbursement must clearly identify the dates, destination and the business purpose of the trip, meeting or expense.
- Travel and Expense Reports should be completed in a single currency only (preferably U.S. Dollars). If the U.S. dollar amounts stated on the Form are derived after converting from a foreign currency, please include a copy of the source document used for conversion. This document should clearly show the rate or conversion factor that was used in the computations. We suggest using the converter available at <http://www.oanda.com/convert/fxhistory>.

SPECIAL NOTE

Expenses that are generally subject to reimbursement

The following are usually accepted for reimbursement: transportation, lodging, meals, and certain miscellaneous expenses. Details are provided in these *Guidelines*.

Expenses that are not subject to reimbursement

Any expenses not specifically addressed in these *Guidelines* as reimbursable must have prior written explanation and approval. Non-reimbursable expenses include but are not limited to the following:

- spouse's travel expenses
- dependent care, pet care
- supply clergy to substitute for clergy on official business, lost pay
- use of frequent-flyer miles, additional travel insurance
- luggage purchase or replacement
- unofficial (personal) entertainment, in-room movies, barber and beauty services, newspapers and magazines, sightseeing
- medical services
- motor vehicle fines
- “no show” charges for hotels, car rental and limousines
- charge card late fees and expenses
- alcoholic beverages. Exceptions may be made for alcoholic beverages for official entertainment.

MODE OF TRANSPORTATION

When you are traveling on official business, you should travel by the most expeditious route, which will usually be by air. *However*, you may travel by personal automobile, train or bus when the situation warrants. *Requests for rental or owned auto travel* must be submitted in writing or by e-mail to, and be approved by, the accountable Center Director or Administrative Executive.

All travel for which reimbursement is sought must be provided through **licensed commercial carrier or your own vehicle**.

AIR TRAVEL

Fare

Reservations should be booked as early as possible to take advantage of advance purchase discounts. This is typically 14 to 21 days for travel within the U.S. and 14 to 60 days in advance for international travel. The cost for a twenty-one day advance purchase coach fare for a direct flight will be the basis for determining reimbursement amounts. *All* trips should be booked as *coach fares*, unless approved in advance by the appropriate member of Management. The Society will pay for an aisle seat in coach, if the airline charges for all aisle seats. Also, the Society will reimburse for one checked bag, if the airline charges for the first checked bag. The Society will not reimburse for additional baggage fees. The Society's travel agency will **choose the most direct, cost effective route of travel**. Travelers wishing to deviate from the travel agency's choice by choosing their airline or routing will be expected to pay the excess cost above the travel agency's quote for airfare.

Charges incurred for itinerary changes made for the convenience of the traveler will not be reimbursed.

Travel Accident Insurance

You are covered for accidents that occur during official business travel, as follows:

- Bookings made through the Society's approved travel agent receive \$350,000 of automatic insurance through American Express covering accidental death or dismemberment arising during a trip from point of departure to point of return (i.e., door-to-door).
- The Society provides \$350,000 of additional Travel Accident Insurance covering accidental death or dismemberment occurring during all business travel. This coverage is independent of the American Express or any other collateral insurance. (For aircraft travel, this insurance is subject to an aggregate limit of \$3,500,000 if more than one insured person suffers a loss in a single incident).

Summary policy descriptions are available upon request from the Controller's Office.

AUTOMOBILE TRAVEL

Rented Vehicle Policy

Unless you are a Center Director or Administrative Executive, you must have the prior written approval of your Center Director or Administrative Executive in order to rent a car or van for official business travel. The Society's designated travel agent has arranged favorable rates with alternative auto rental companies.

The Society's insurance coverage protects against auto liability claims that arise when autos are used for church related activities. The DFMS is subject, however, to a \$500 deductible if its traveler is deemed the "at-fault" driver involved in the accident.

Allowances for traveler's own vehicle

- The rate of reimbursement is the current IRS rate plus tolls and parking fees. Receipts for tolls and parking fees must accompany requests for reimbursement (regardless of the dollar amount).
- Gasoline and oil are *not* reimbursable expenses in addition to this per-mile reimbursement; rather, they are a part of it.
- Total reimbursement shall not exceed the sum of direct airfare plus rebated ground transportation, except in situations where the use of an automobile, in lieu of another means of transportation, can be justified.

LODGING

Inside New York City

The Society has established corporate accounts with the Tudor Hotel at the United Nations (42nd Street and Second Ave.), the Millennium UN Plaza (44th Street between 1st and 2nd Avenues) and the Fitzpatrick Grand Central Hotel (45th Street and Lexington Avenue). Reservations must be made through Sherri Siegel Quinones, Meetings Coordinator (212) 716 6021, in the office of the Chief Operating Officer: 800-334-7626.

Outside New York City

The *allowance for lodging* will generally be equal to the *standard business rate* (determined by locality) at a moderately priced hotel.

Billing

Individual Billing: You must pay your own hotel bill and submit your receipt for reimbursement. ***You may not charge the hotel bill of another person traveling on Society business and expect reimbursement.*** The Society will not reimburse you for such a charge.

Group Billing: If a group wishes to arrange hotel accommodations for members attending a meeting or conference, the Society will accept direct billing from the hotel for room, group catering and audio visual charges. All individual charges (e.g., room service, meals, telephone, etc.) must be submitted through an individual Travel and Expense Report. A *contract* for group accommodations must be submitted for review by in-house counsel and signed by the Treasurer at least 60 days in advance of the meeting or conference.

Length of Hotel Stay

The Society will reimburse travelers for hotel rooms during the period of a scheduled meeting and any additional night required to accommodate public transportation schedules. A traveler may be reimbursed for an extended stay *to the extent that the traveler can document* that the savings in transportation costs exceed the additional expense of extended lodging (e.g., the reduced fare for a weekend flight exceeds the additional hotel room charge).

MEALS

Allowance

Original receipts for all individual meals must be provided. Suggested ranges for individual meals are \$6 to \$10 (Breakfast), \$6 to \$10 (Lunch) and \$35 to \$40 (Dinner). You may submit for reimbursement *only* your expenses. Please see *Miscellaneous Expenses*, below, for guidelines related to guests.

Reimbursement

Requests for reimbursement for each meal must be accompanied by a credit card receipt or a receipted hotel or restaurant bill specifying as separate items food, alcohol, and tax. This is a requirement of the Internal Revenue Code.

- No reimbursement will be made for meals, which are provided as part of the group arrangements for a meeting.
- When full or continental breakfast is included in the hotel rate, no reimbursement will be made for room service breakfast.
- An accountable Center Director or Administrative Executive must approve a request for reimbursement for the entertainment of a guest/guests of the Society.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES

Transfers

Reimbursement may be denied for taxi fares when shuttle service is provided by a hotel or conference center.

Host/Hostess Gift

For a meal, or hospitality in lieu of hotel accommodations, a gift is permitted provided that its cost does not exceed that of a local restaurant (for a meal) or one night's hotel rate (for hospitality). For reimbursement, you must submit a receipt for the gift and note on it the name of the recipient.

Laundry and Valet Services

On trips of five (5) or more days, the cost of necessary laundry and valet services is reimbursable.

For Persons with Disabilities

Persons with disabilities who need special transportation, wheelchairs, scooters, sign language interpreters or aids for vision may request provision of these and other services from the Executive Officer of the General Convention (for members of Executive Council and CCABs) or the Chief Operating Officer (for persons on the Presiding Bishop's staff), who will approve or disallow them on a case by case basis.

Business Entertainment

The traveler may be reimbursed for entertaining a guest or employee of the Society if such entertainment is for business purposes and is pre-approved by a Center Director, Administrative Executive or Chair. Reimbursement for meals included in entertainment expenses must be within the guidelines for individual meals.

Telecommunications

Essential personal telephone calls (e.g., to your home) and hotel-connection Internet service are reimbursable on a reasonable basis.

Other Miscellaneous Expenses

When an in-hotel health facility is not included in the base hotel room charge, reimbursement will be payable up to \$10 per day. The separate charge must be clearly identifiable.

Modest incidental tips for service do not require receipts.

TRAVEL ADVANCES

Policy

Advances for official travel are available to all employees and members of Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards engaged in official travel for the Episcopal Church.

Because air travel is to be booked through the Society's approved travel agent who will charge the fare directly to the corporate American Express account, travel advances should be requested for essential anticipated expenses only.

Obtaining a travel advance

You should submit to the appropriate Center Director or Administrative Executive or the General Convention Office an invoice or statement for an advance to cover reasonable expenses such as ground travel, lodging, and meals.

You should allow ten (10) working days for processing; therefore, all requests should be submitted as early as possible.

Accounting for a travel advance

Immediately, or no later than thirty (30) calendar days after your trip, you must submit the Travel and Expense Report (specifying the amount of reimbursement due or the unused funds being returned) with the following attachments:

- An e-invoice or original airline or train ticket from the DFMS officially designated travel agent or a bus ticket or stub (to verify the cost of your ticket and ensure that it was actually used). An itinerary only will *not* be accepted. This procedure must be followed even when travel has been charged to the Society's American Express account.
- A receipted hotel bill. (If you elect not to stay at the official hotel designated for a meeting, you should submit a bill from your hotel; however, you will be reimbursed only for an amount equal to the group rate at the designated official hotel).
- Receipts for all reimbursable meals, transportation, entertainment and miscellaneous expenses other than tips.

Subsequent travel advances

Subsequent requests for travel advances will not be processed until proper accounting is received for all previous advances.

Exception

If only your airfare was prepaid, you may request an advance to cover other expenses for the same trip.

IRS Form 1099

At the end of each calendar year, in accordance with IRS regulations, Form 1099 (Nonemployee Compensation) will be issued by the Society in the amount of all travel advances for which an accounting has not been made to the Society.

REIMBURSEMENT

All receipts must include the name of the vendor, date and dollar amount.

Documentation for Reimbursement

Travelers seeking reimbursement must submit the following documentation along with their expense report:

Air/Rail	E-invoice from travel agency for air or rail. If rail transportation is not booked through the travel agency, then the original passenger coupon with the price.
Lodging	Complete hotel folio showing proof of payment
Car Rental	Rental car agreement including proof of payment
Meals/Entertainment	Charge/credit card receipt or cash register receipt (no restaurant tear tabs); or note indicating "\$x.00 for airplane meal" or for similar modest-priced meals when no receipt is given.

- All airline and rail charges will be centrally billed to the Society's American Express account. You will still report air and rail charges with proper documentation on your expense report as an expense paid by the Society.
- You may charge and be reimbursed only for your own official travel. You will not be reimbursed for travel, lodging or meal expenses of a group or any other person(s).
- Arrangements for official travel by a group or any other person(s) must be made by our official travel agent. (See *Travel Agent*, below.)
- Because all travel reimbursement guidelines comply with the Internal Revenue Code, reimbursed out-of-pocket expenses for official travel will *not* be reported to the IRS as income.

Submitting a Request for Reimbursement

Please direct all requests for reimbursement to the staff person through whom the meeting arrangements were made.

Requests for reimbursement for group travel for Members of Committees, Commissions, Agencies and Boards of the General Convention or Executive Council should be sent to:

Cheryl Dawkins, Staff Assistant
General Convention Office
The Episcopal Church Center
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Tel: (212-716-6145)

Any subsequent questions should be directed to June A. Victor in the Treasurer's Office (212-716-6077), or to Thelma Bailey in the Controller's Office (212-716- 6292).

TRAVEL AGENT

Policy

The DFMS contracts with an officially designated travel agent. Effective September 8, 2008, A&I Travel, Inc. is the officially designated travel agency. A&I Travel can be reached by telephone at 800-467-1182; or fax at 901-291-1459. The benefits of using this agent include very significant cost savings, upgrades, on-line booking in many instances, plus other special features. You may book transportation through another means *only if* you can document that you can achieve savings of more than \$100 below the fare plus agency fee quoted by the DFMS' officially designated travel agency. (We recommend that after obtaining an alternative fare quote you obtain a written quote from the DFMS' officially designated travel agency should you elect to purchase the alternative option.) **All exceptions should be documented and fully explained on an accompanying note, ensuring that the arithmetic and calculations are clear; otherwise your reimbursement may be delayed or rejected.**

A & I Travel offers two options for booking travel:

1. On-line Booking through Rearden Online Personal Assistant. All travelers of the Society are encouraged to utilize the Rearden Online system for air, car and hotel bookings (excluding NY preferred hotels). Prior approval or registration may be required if you are a new and infrequent traveler. More information on Rearden can be found at <http://www.aitvl.com/dfms.htm>
2. Full Service Booking with a live agent. We encourage travelers who are traveling internationally, or travel itineraries that require multiple destinations on the same trip to contact a designated agent for The Society by calling 1-866-683-8248; 1-901-271-2300; or emergency assistance after business hours (Monday – Friday 8:00am-6:00pm CST) at 1-866-616-8206.

MEETING SCHEDULING

To accommodate the schedules of both the clergy and lay members, we encourage committees and other bodies to consider using a combination of weekdays and weekends when scheduling meetings.