

Ministry Job Description: DEACON

Goal of Position

In the office-bearers of the church we see the love of Christ for his people. As the Lord of the church he appoints leaders and by his Spirit equips them so that believers may grow in faith, develop disciplined Christian living, serve others in selfless love and share with all the good news of salvation. He taught us the spirit of true leadership when he said, "Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant and whoever wants to be first among you must be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many." (Matthew 20:26-28).

Deacons are chosen to give leadership to diaconal ministry. In this ministry, deacons empower members of their own congregation and partner with neighboring churches, Christian services, and local social agencies. Diaconal Ministry, to touch people's lives as Christ's hands and feet, focuses mainly on the following areas:

- *Compassion:* Deacons model and demonstrate compassion to those who are hurting with words of hope and actions for encouragement.
- *Community Ministry:* Deacons model and encourage the congregation to be engaged in community ministry within their local communities.
- *Stewardship:* Deacons encourage church members to be stewards of God's creation and to practice authentic stewardship with their time, talents, and money.
- *Justice:* Deacons model and encourage the congregation to be advocates *for* and *with* the marginalized and vulnerable people in their own local community.

Job Responsibilities

In both word and deed, deacons demonstrate the care of the Lord himself and serve by showing mercy to the church and *all* people.

1. Handle church finances (benevolence)

- Prepare weekly collection schedule; ensure a balance of local, international and denominational needs are met.
- Inform the congregation of needs within the community and for ministries that the local church supports.
- Collect the weekly offerings of God's people (schedules will be made available)
- Count offerings monthly and deposit in bank.
- Respond to email regularly and decide on allocation of benevolence funds.
- Connect with the Stewardship and Finance Teams to promote stewardship.

2. See to physical well-being of church members

- Become aware of people struggling financially within the church community, visit them and assess their needs and how best to respond
- Become aware of justice issues within the church
- Advocate for those with disability concerns

3. Reach out to the local community

- Participate in church community events
- Support and connect with our missionaries (both home and abroad)
- Meet with people who request benevolence funds, assess their needs and how best to respond
- Become aware of justice issues within the community

- Work with community agencies to determine needs and how best to collaborate in addressing those needs

4. Special projects

- Does your church have special projects done at special times of the year ie: Christmas?

Time Required

The deacons meet on a monthly basis for a two hour meeting, as well as make visits to those in need which is based on availability and giftedness. Additionally, deacons inform the congregation about offerings, collect those offerings on Sundays and do some additional administrative work at home.

Length of commitment

Two to three years (this may vary from church to church)

Training

In order to develop people in their ministry roles, it is vitally important that deacons are provided with training, especially for those new to the position. Included should be any resources (Deacon's Handbook, other helpful books and manuals, on-line resources and specific church information, etc), communication when training is available through organizations like Volunteers In Service as well as the communication and transferring of attitudes, competencies and knowledge needed for effective ministry.

Qualifications or special skills

When you accept a call from your congregation to serve as a deacon, you are also accepting this call from God. And so, the [form for the ordination of deacons](#) indicates that those serving in this capacity should be believers who are Christ-like, are mature in faith and exercise their office with prayer, patience and humility. Additionally, serving as a deacon puts you in a leadership role within your congregation, one that should be modeled as that of a servant. The heart of your calling is then to "lead by serving others" in your church and community, as well as to "lead by equipping church members" to serve in the area of mercy ministry.

The church is not just a place of worship and where ministry happens, but also a place of safety and trust. As such, those serving as deacons will be required to provide a current police background check.

Benefits to this position

In your role as deacon you will likely be challenged in many ways, but you'll also be blessed in abundance. Those who have served in this capacity before testify that you will experience

- *deeper relationships*, not only those with whom you serve but also within your congregation
- *growth in your faith*, as you journey with people, hear their stories and learn to trust and rely on God to guide your ministry
- *God's kingdom expanding in small and big ways*, as you experience how the work of the deacons has touched the lives of others and how God transforms his people
- *comfort in knowing your church is part of God's solution for building his kingdom*. Although you'll experience challenges along the way, you'll definitely see God at work
- *affirmation of your gifts* as you step out in faith and trust God to guide your path, plus development of skills you never knew you had
- *joy in seeing God at work through the deacon's ministry*

Information for this document was taken from different resources including the "Deacon's handbook" by Lori Wiersma and Connie Kuiper VanDyke, Diaconal Ministries Canada website, the form for Ordination of elders and deacons as printed in the gray Psalter Hymnal plus information from a few Christian Reformed Churches.