



## **What a Deacon Needs to Know**

### **Diaconate candidates need to know/practice the following prior to ordination**

#### **Worship**

1. Have an understanding of how to set the table for communion in different liturgical settings (knowing, for example, how to work with a veiled chalice as well the liturgical names for each item used in a worship service). It would be helpful to visit other Anglican Churches to see different practices and then discuss them with your rector.
2. Be familiar with vestments used in different liturgical settings.
3. Be familiar with other possible participants in a worship service and their roles, including special services and how to prepare for your task/s in that service (i.e. Palm Sunday, Baptisms, Confirmations).
4. Have knowledge of how to use the Book of Common Prayer for devotions, prayers, lectionary, and various services, as well as being familiar with the church calendar and seasonal colors. If possible, lead the daily office at least once for your congregation.
5. Deacons should know their liturgical roles and limitations in all worship services.
  - a. What roles are reserved for priests and what is a deacon permitted to do without a priest?
  - b. Can a Deacon do a wedding? What permission is needed and what are the limits?
  - c. Can a Deacon do a baptism? What permission is needed and what are the limits?
  - d. What permission is needed and what are the elements of a Deacon's Mass?

#### **Ministry to the Sick**

1. Deacons are to have experience and knowledge concerning visiting the sick and hospitalized.
  - a. If possible, it would be best for the ordinand to have the opportunity to visit someone sick or in the hospital with a deacon or the rector at the rector's discretion.
  - b. Has the deacon talked through or experienced anointing the sick – what is anointing oil, why is it used and how is it used?
  - c. Understand elements of a visit and appropriate length of visit (generally 10 minutes is enough)
2. Deacon should lead a group in prayer over someone.
3. Know how to get and bring communion to someone homebound or hospitalized.

#### **Ministry to Those in Need**

1. Deacons need to have knowledge of the local availability of community services and resources. Have the deacon put together a binder of contact information for local police, fire, counselors, AA, drug abuse recovery, elderly services, physical therapists, food banks, homeless support/shelters, hospitals, health clinics, and any other service or resource that will help serve you and your congregation.

2. Have knowledge of how to help or get help for elderly or someone homebound.
3. What services does your local church provide for people who walk-in off the street? Where do you direct them? How do you approach such a situation? What if it's in the middle of Worship on Sunday? How do you determine who needs legitimate help from those who may not?

## **Ministry of the Word**

1. Deacons need to have some training and experience with teaching.
  - a. Does the deacon have basic understanding of how to handle scripture well?
  - b. Does the deacon have the ability to plan, study, and execute a bible study in a small group or adult education format (small and large groups)?
2. If gifted in preaching, or the deacon is transitional and plans to be a priest, then practice and training from the rector in preaching to the congregation is encouraged.
3. Do some research to find three resources that you would recommend for a group study (e.g. small group studies, books, etc.). Then find five appropriate helps and references for aiding someone in their personal study of the Bible (e.g. books, devotions, commentary sets, etc.)

## **Ministry Health**

1. It is vital for clergy to know and live into appropriate boundaries with the Body.
  - a. Everyone will have an idea of what you should be doing, but it doesn't mean you need to do it. What is a deacon called to do? What does the rector require of you? Who are you? What are you gifted and not gifted to do? What brings you joy? How might you communicate boundaries with a parishioner who really wants you to do something that doesn't fit your calling, the rector's direction, or who you are?
  - b. Understand appropriate meeting places, times, and situations with church members.
  - c. Are you aware of what a compromising situation may look like? When might it be best to say no to someone or something to avoid such a situation? If possible, discuss this with your rector and/or other deacons.
2. It is vital for clergy to be aware of important life rhythms and form boundaries for health.
  - a. When do you need to say no? What do you look, act, and say when you are tired? Know your own warning signs of burnout.
  - b. How do you rest; and when and how often do you rest? Is it enough?
  - c. Do you have someone outside of the church you serve in to talk to and hold you accountable.
  - d. How well do you understand emotional health? What are you doing or need to do to inject emotionally healthy rhythms in your life?

## Checklist for Diaconal Practices

You and your rector will use this checklist to track your progress with the diaconal practices above. Before the ordinand can be considered a diaconal candidate for ordination, both the ordinand and his/her rector need to sign and agree that he/she has proficiency and/or knowledge of all of the following as described above. Return this to the diocesan admin ([admin@rockymountainanglican.org](mailto:admin@rockymountainanglican.org)) when complete and signed.

### Worship

- Setting the Eucharistic Table
- Vestments
- Other Possible Participants and Special Services
- Book of Common Prayer
- Liturgical Roles and Limitations

### Ministry to the Sick

- Visitation of Sick and Hospitalized
- Lead Prayer over Sick or Someone in Need
- Communion to Homebound or Hospitalized

### Ministry to Those in Need

- Community Resource Binder
- How to get Help for Elderly and/or Homebound
- Church Services for Walk-ins

### Ministry of the Word

- Training and Experience with Teaching
- Preaching
- Resources for Group Study

### Ministry Health

- Boundaries with the Church
- Important Life Rhythms and Rest

**Ordinand Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Rector Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_