

RESOURCE GUIDE

FOR DEACONS



Deacons serve by leading and equipping the church to minister to its members and the world in a rich diversity of ministries, awakening compassion, demonstrating mercy, seeking justice, and collaborating with God's Spirit for the transformation of persons and communities.

Listed below are the tools, resources, and workshops Diaconal Ministries Canada offers to equip deacons in the work they do.

*All of the print resources (and more information) can be found on our website:
<https://diaconalministries.com/>.*



THE ROLE OF A DEACON

Deacon's Mandate		The call of deacons is to motivate and mobilize the entire congregation for works of service (diakonia).
About Diaconal Ministries Canada		Information on the resources and tools available to deacons, including both printed and online resources, as well as workshops.




BENEVOLENCE

Guidelines For Benevolence		Developing 'Guidelines for Benevolence' helps deacons focus their time and energy as well as understand when and how to collaborate with other community agencies.
Helping Without Harming in Church Benevolence		Discover how food banks, deacon funds, and other benevolent activities can be more meaningful and have a greater impact.





STEWARDSHIP

Preparing the Offering Schedule		The offering schedule must mirror a church's stewardship plans and reflect the direction of the congregation in ministry.
Offerings as Part of Worship		The Offering Time is an opportune time to encourage your members in the area of stewardship, generosity, and giving as an act of worship.
Discerning What Ministries to Support		Choosing who to support, and how, should be bathed in prayer and discernment.






COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community Opportunity Scan (COS)		A COS is a comprehensive process of discovery to help identify and affirm the unique gifts and assets in the community and highlight opportunities for partnerships.
Key Principles of Community Engagement		A valuable resource that will act as a guide as your church connects with its unique community.
NewGround <i>(formerly Operation Manna)</i>		NewGround partners with local churches to identify and establish practical, tangible, and sustainable community ministries.

MERCY & JUSTICE

Promoting Mercy & Justice		Diaconal Ministries has identified the following areas of justice: Vulnerable People Groups, Creation Care, & Restorative Justice. Diaconates are encouraged to contact Cindy Stover, our Justice Mobilizer.
Helping Without Harming		A workshop that trains and equips churches and organizations to address poverty and injustice both locally and globally.
Newcomers to Canada		Regardless of the reason behind coming to Canada, challenges abound. Deacons are encouraged to work with our partnering agencies: World Renew, CRC Office of Social Justice, and the Centre for Public Dialogue.
Youth Justice Project		Funded through our NewGround Program, Deacons are encouraged to work with teens in their church to identify an injustice in their community and find ways to address it.

GROWING AS LEADERS IN GOD'S KINGDOM

Running Effective Meetings		A workshop to help diaconates develop awareness and skills in diaconal ministry, meet goals, intercede with prayer, and include ongoing encouragement and accountability.
Devotions for Your Deacon Meetings		Prayer for one another and a devotional reading will help the deacons reach IN and reach UP before they reach OUT to others in the church and beyond.
Deacon Mentoring		Mentoring is not an exact science, but there are some basic principles that can guide mentors in developing mentoring relationships with mentees.
Recruiting New Deacons		Recruiting new members for your Church Council is a BIG deal so give it the attention it deserves!
Making Visits		Deacons are called to minister with compassion (mercy). Compassion is made visible through visits to people in the church and in the community.