

TOP LEADERSHIP TASKS *of a Deacon*

THE CHARGE TO DEACONS

Inspire faithful ministries of service to one another, to the larger community, and to the world. Remind us that the Lord requires us “to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with [our] God” (Mic. 6:8).

Teach us to be merciful and to seize new opportunities to worship God with offerings of wealth, time, and ability.

Realize that benevolence is a quality of our life in Christ and not merely a matter of financial assistance.

Therefore, minister to rich and poor alike, both within and outside the church.

Weigh our opportunities for giving and service and use the church's resources discerningly. ...

1. EQUIP AND MOBILIZE THEIR CHURCH

See Diakonia Remixed: Office of Deacon Task Force report to CRCNA Synod-2015 & Ephesians 4:11-13

It is the primary role of the Deacon to remind God's Church that each person is called to diaconal work, according to his/her gifts and abilities.

- Regularly communicate to the membership on various diaconal work being done, future plans, and how they can get involved

2. LEAD AS EQUALS WITH THE ELDERS AND PASTORS

See Form for the Ordination of Elders and Deacons (2016) and Diakonia Remixed: Office of Deacon Task Force report to CRCNA Synod-2015

"By His Spirit God equips... leaders 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... Deacons and elders, together with the ministers, are responsible for the general administration of the church."

This 'principle of parity' ensures FULL representation of the church.

- Given the different gifts, responsibilities, and mandates of Deacons, Elders and Pastors, it is important that all three be represented at Classis and Synod meetings in order to listen, pray, and assist in the hearing of God's voice and the leading of His church

3. DEVELOP AS A LEADER IN GOD'S KINGDOM

- Recruit and train new deacons to set them up for success
- Create an annual Work Plan with clear goals to help your diaconate track impact, as well as ensure accountability and sustainability of key initiatives that fall under your diaconal supervision
- Continually evaluate and assess programs and initiatives
- Take time to discover your gifts (and the gifts of church members)
- Looking to Jesus' example, encourage mentoring relationships, which can enrich the life and work of both participants

4. PROMOTE MERCY AND JUSTICE

"Justice without mercy is cruelty. Mercy without justice is the mother of all dissolution." -Thomas Aquinas

- Learn about Biblical Advocacy and how to identify a situation in your community that is unjust and requires action



...Be compassionate to those in need and treat them with dignity and respect; hold in trust all sensitive matters confided to you. Encourage with words that create hope in hearts and with deeds that bring joy into lives.

Be prophetic critics of the waste, injustice, and selfishness in our society, and be sensitive counselors to the victims of such evils. Let your lives be above reproach; live as examples of Christ Jesus; look to the interests of others.

And in all your ministries help us participate in the renewing of all things even as we anticipate its completion when God's kingdom comes.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

US DEACONS:

andrewryskamp@crcna.org

CANADIAN DEACONS:

diaconalministries.com
dmc@crcna.org

5. FACILITATE CARE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE OF THE CHURCH

Deacons provide hope and encouragement through both word and deed.

- Make visits to hurting and lonely people, both in the church and the community
- Consider Refugee Sponsorship in order to minister to 'the least of these' and show Christ's love to the stranger
- Ensure the vulnerable (children, seniors, shut-ins, disabled) in your congregation are cared for and feel valued

6. MODEL AND ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Cities and neighbourhoods should be blessed by the churches that exist there. Deacons understand and teach the five (5) principles of community engagement:

- Mutuality - God is already at work in your community
- Participation - All people are image-bearers of God and can use their gifts
- Integration - Holistic community development includes both word and deed
- Ownership - Engaging heart and mind increases impact and avoids dependency
- Accountability - Evaluation and enhancement ensures the vision is accomplished

7. INSPIRE FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP

Stewardship involves understanding that everything we have is a gift from God and using what we have (stewarding it) in faithful ways that please Him and bring Him glory. Benevolence is more specifically about how we support the people around us. In all these things, deacons encourage their members to 'excel in the grace of giving' (2 Cor. 8:7).

- Promote ways church members can "practice" and live out good stewardship with their Time, Talents (abilities), Treasures (finances) and in Creation (Trees)
- Create an awareness of what ministry shares are and what they do
- Prepare an Annual Offering Schedule that reflects the vision and mission of the church

8. PROMOTE AND PARTNER WITH CLASSICAL AND DENOMINATIONAL MINISTRIES

To see a full list of agencies and ministries, visit crcna.org and/or contact your local Classis

"The Christian Reformed Church is a diverse family of healthy congregations, assemblies, and ministries expressing the good news of God's kingdom that transforms lives and communities worldwide." We can truly do more together!

- Promote the payment of ministry shares
- Keep the various ministries in your prayers