

How can a deacon make a difference?

With God's help, deacons **can** be effective. If a deacon is open to learning and understanding needs within and outside of the church, God will reveal the way they may touch people's lives as His hands and feet.

Effective deacons...

- know and develop their gifts and passions
- contribute these gifts to the joint work of the diaconate
- nurture their individual relationship with God
- pray often, individually and with the diaconate
- listen diligently: to God, to the people they serve, and to each other
- work to maintain a healthy balance between their work, family and church work
- regularly celebrate what God is doing

Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to inspire, empower, and equip deacons as they animate their churches to...

- transform communities with Christ's love ●
- live stewardly ●
- promote mercy & justice ●

www.diaconalministries.com

What do Deacons do?

Service as the hands
and feet
of Jesus



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Engaging Communities

Deacons lead and equip the church to get involved in their community in meaningful, sustainable, effective, and empowering ways.

- Becoming a participating member of your church's local neighbourhood, including developing partnerships and collaborating with other agencies/ churches
- Discovering your community's unique assets, needs, and opportunities
- Evaluating and developing church activities to be accessible, relevant, and connected to the community
 - Understanding and teaching the five (5) principles of Community Engagement: *Mutuality, Participation, Integration, Ownership, and Accountability.*



What does this look like?

Leadership Development & Admin.

The church does not simply have deacons, but is, by its very nature and calling, a diaconate. The call of deacons is to motivate and mobilize the entire congregation for works of service (*diakonia*).

- Communicating with the congregation on work being done and how they can be involved
- Developing a Vision & Mission and setting goals
- Running effective meetings which includes building community in your diaconate
 - Discovering individual gifts and passions in your diaconate and church
 - Learning about the Deacon's role at Classis & Synod and participating joyfully



What does this look like?

Living Stewardly

Deacons train and empower their congregations to faithfully use and care for all that God has entrusted to them in ways that please and glorify Him.

- Providing a comprehensive understanding of Stewardship
- Promoting ways church members can "practice" living stewardly in all four areas: with their Time, Talents, Treasures (finances) and in Creation (Trees)
- Discerning which ministries and agencies your church will support, both locally and globally
 - Crafting appropriate Benevolence Policies to ensure helping without harming
 - Providing crisis support, when & where needed
 - Helping people access practical assistance through community partnerships.



What does this look like?

Mercy & Justice

Deacons model and demonstrate compassion (mercy), hope, and encouragement to those who are hurting. Deacons also lead and encourage the church to be advocates for and with the marginalized and vulnerable people in their local community.

- Asking deeper questions about why some suffer injustice
- Educating the church about local and global injustices and empowering members to respond
- Advocating for those who experience injustice
 - Hearing and sitting with people's stories
 - Journeying with and encouraging people as they strive to make change
 - Offering hospitality to "the least of these" (Matt. 25:40)



What does this look like?