

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

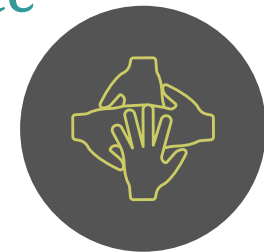
Relying on the Holy Spirit, Diaconal Ministries Canada exists to inspire, empower, and equip deacons as they animate their churches to...

- 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 the life of your church's local neighbourhood

- Become a participating member of your church's local neighbourhood, including developing partnerships and collaborating with other agencies/churches
- Discover your community's unique assets, needs, and opportunities (Consider a Community Opportunity Scan!)
 - Look for ways to love and serve the vulnerable and marginalized in your neighbourhood.
 - Evaluate and develop church activities to be accessible, relevant, and connected to the community




What does this look like?

Benevolence, Compassion & Mercy

Deacons model to the church how to reach out and be concerned about someone else's distress and misfortune, often leading to practical ways in showing mercy.

- Listen into the stories of others
- Use discernment to respond to requests for assistance
- Support counselling needs
- Serve the vulnerable, elderly, sick, and bereaved inside/outside your church
 - Ensure your church has a Safe Church Policy/Disabilities Concerns Ambassador
 - Craft appropriate Benevolence Policies to ensure helping without harming



What does this look like?

Stewardship

Deacons train and empower their congregations to faithfully use and care for all that God has entrusted us, including time, treasures, talents and trees (creation care)

- Encourage members in the "grace of giving"
- Lead members to discover and use their talents/time in meaningful ways
- Promote creation care EVERYWHERE! (church, home, community)
 - Discerning which ministries and agencies your church will support, both locally and globally
 - Create a "Ministry-focused" Budget that connects offerings to your church's vision



What does this look like?

Service & Justice

Deacons lead and encourage the church to be advocates for and with marginalized and vulnerable people in their community and globally.

- Advocate with Refugees
- Host a Justice 101 Workshop or Blanket Exercise
- Subscribe to OSJ's Do Justice: dojustice.crcna.org
 - Be an advocate for affordable housing
 - Serve Fair Trade coffee at your church
 - Encourage youth in your church to apply to NewGround's Youth Justice Project



What does this look like?