

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 ●

diaconalministries.com

What do Deacons do?


*Service as the
hands and
feet of Jesus*



Engaging Communities

Deacons lead and equip the church to get involved in the life of your church's local neighbourhood

- Learn from other diaconate's experiences as they focused on becoming more engaged locally
- As a group, physically walk through your church's neighbourhood
- Assess your church's 'readiness' to begin a Community Opportunity Scan (COS)
- Collaborate with local organizations, churches and services with the intention to build relationships
 - Make your church building and/or property available for neighbourhood events
 - Use a 'community lens' to ensure your church activities are accessible, relevant, and connected to the community




What does this look like?

Benevolence, Compassion, Mercy

Deacons model to the church how to appropriately walk alongside individuals or households while responding to situations that require assistance.

- Begin by listening to the stories of others
- Discern the most appropriate response to requests for assistance; refer to your Benevolence Policy to guide you
- Include counselling as a benevolence response
- Be aware of and partner with community resources
- Create a safe place for people to ask for help
 - Coordinate with other office-bearers how to best support the marginalized, elderly, sick, and bereaved in your church
 - Educate your church on a Biblical understanding of poverty




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, talents, treasures, and trees (creation care)

- Promote the online "Biblical Stewardship" course in the church and among your leadership
- Strive for a balance of local, regional, global, and denominational causes in the offering schedule
- Prioritize ministries that offer opportunities to build relationships, moving beyond merely financial contributions
- Organize/join a "spring" cleanup with other stakeholders in your church neighbourhood
 - Encourage personal budgeting/financial planning to your church members
 - Explore options to reduce the carbon footprint of your church building



What does this look like?

Service & Justice

Deacons lead and encourage the church to amplify the voices of their community and globally that face systemic barriers and obstacles.

- Advocate with refugees and other new Canadians
- Support initiatives that address affordable housing and food security
- Host a "Justice: An Everyday Spiritual Journey" workshop to learn about what it means to 'do justice and love mercy'
- Subscribe to CRCNA's Do Justice blog
 - Serve Fair Trade coffee at all of your church functions
 - Host a "Blanket Exercise" or promote the "Hearts Exchanged" journey of learning



What does this look like?