

Lifelong Learning

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Constitution and Canons 2022

Canon 7: Of the Life and Work of Deacons

Sec. 5. The Bishop and Commission shall require and provide for the continuing education of Deacons and keep a record of such education.

How is information about lifelong learning opportunities disseminated?

Who determines which opportunities are appropriate?

Who is responsible for tracking compliance?

How is non-compliance handled?

How many lifelong learning hours is sufficient?

How are hours recorded?

Possible Providers of Lifelong Learning opportunities include:

1. Individual Dioceses
2. Diaconal Organizations/Groups
3. Churchwide Networks
4. Seminaries/Theological Institutions

Dioceses provide lots of events for clergy, both priests and deacons, to get together. Some dioceses often have deacons gathering together for fellowship with their bishop, but what events are social ones, and what events are lifelong learning opportunities?

Let's look at a few and decide.

1. Clergy retreats and gatherings
 - A. all clergy
 - B. deacons only
2. Anti-Racism Seminars
3. Guest Lecturers I.e. Presiding Bishop/visiting theologians, etc.
4. Diocesan Conventions/General Convention



ASSOCIATION FOR EPISCOPAL DEACONS

ENGAGING THE DIAKONIA OF ALL BELIEVERS

Diaconal Organizations often offer deacon-created and deacon-led learning opportunities that are competency based.



The Association for Episcopal Deacons offers the following resources for Lifelong Learning:

DEACON VIDEOS

Produced by AED and The Fund for the Diaconate, this Video Series features deacons being interviewed about their ministry, plus the rewards and challenges they experience. Videos also highlight the ways AED and The Fund are working to support deacons in all stages of their ministry.

LIFE & WORK OF DEACONS CONFERENCES

•Upcoming Life & Work Conferences

October 13 & 14, 2023

Open to all, via Zoom.

Free for members of AED. *If you register as a member but your membership has lapsed, they'll reach out to renew your membership.*

Check their website for updated information and lifelong learning opportunities.

Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC) is one of the regional groups of **DIAKONIA World Federation**.

DOTAC MONTHLY PRAYER GATHERING: **Even months** (June, August, October, etc.) are held at 5 pm Central Time and on **Odd months** (July, September, November, etc.) at noon Central Time.

Gather at the River The 2023 DOTAC Assembly Minneapolis, MN | August 14-18, 2023 “...to claim healing for ourselves, the planet, and its people And move toward holy joy in our work for justice. Registration for online access is open at this time.

Contact Deacon Ted Dodd for detailed information on resources available.



**LISTENING
FOR
CLUES**

This is a pod cast led by two retired deacons, **Lauren Welch and Jon Shematek, from the Diocese of Maryland.**

“The world desperately needs to hear some good news. Now more than ever. That’s why we’re bringing you our newest video and audio podcast series, which features interviews with people who are making a difference in all sorts of ways, small and large. What are they doing, why are they doing it, and how? If you are new to ListeningforClues, subscribe to be notified of every new episode. We are currently welcoming persons who are involved in bringing change for the good into conversation. “

[Listening for Clues | On the Journey with Jon and Lauren](#)



Deacons Conferences

The Episcopal Preaching Foundation believes deacons have a unique voice in representing the Church to the community and the world to the Church. The Foundation works with provinces and dioceses to host preaching formation programs for deacons.

The program will emphasize the deacon's unique opportunity – and responsibility – to speak the sometimes uncomfortable truths that may be less acceptable coming directly from the incumbent priest.

[Deacons Conferences - Episcopal Preaching Foundation](#)

The Episcopal Parish Network (EPN), (formerly the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Parishes)

is an active network of parishes and cathedrals across the country and around the church. Our members vary in size from smaller congregations to our largest churches. EPN's members are resourced with people, buildings, property, and money – allowing them space and capacity to dream of what comes next. For almost 40 years, EPN has seen its role as bringing innovative, agile, and transformational lay and clergy leaders together for conversations, peer-to-peer learning, and networking in order to strengthen parish ministry and serve our communities.

The Episcopal Parish Network (EPN) and its partners are working to connect and equip our members and the Church during this time of challenge and change for everyone. Workshop recordings and resource materials are an offering to the Church and available free-of-charge.

Examples of offerings:

Congregational Mental Health: Suicide and What to Know

Monday, June 26, 2023 – 3:00 pm ET

Ministry for Families and Children: What's Next for Christian Formation

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 – 3:00 pm ET

The Center for Action and Contemplation

The Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) is an educational nonprofit introducing seekers to the contemplative Christian path of transformation. Franciscan [Richard Rohr](#) founded the Center for Action and Contemplation (CAC) in 1987 because he saw a deep need for the integration of both action and contemplation—the two are inseparable. As Father Richard likes to say, the most important word in our Center's name is neither Action nor Contemplation, but the word *and*.

The Living School is the Center for Action and Contemplation's mission-focused program grounded in the wisdom and practices of the Christian contemplative traditions. Its purpose is to nurture the conditions for inner and outer transformation through equipping students with tools, teachings, and experiences to work together for a more just and connected world.

Online courses give everyone the opportunity to discover the wisdom of the Christian contemplative tradition. Learn to bring these teachings and practices into your own routine and deepen their impact on your life. Meet other spiritual seekers, grow your prayer practice, and strengthen your compassionate engagement with the world.

[Center for Action and Contemplation \(cac.org\)](http://cac.org)



Church Divinity School of the Pacific

The Center for Anglican Learning and Leadership's (CALL) online courses are offered throughout the year and are designed so that you can participate at your own pace and at your own time.

Fall 2023 (September 11-October 30) *Registration opens mid-July*

Orientation to the Old Testament

Canon Law & Polity

Anglican Identity

Systematic Theology

Anglican Ethics

The New Testament Parables

Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer

The Diaconate

Navigating Conflict

Members of AED get a discount



VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

Lifelong Learning provides continuous opportunities for theological education in the service of faithful leadership. It is for the committed and the curious, lay and clergy eager to claim and explore their Christian vocations in today's world. Lifelong Learning at VTS is a multi-faceted program grounded in theology and research-based practices to provide transformational learning for courageous leadership in a changing church.

Lifelong Learning Programs @ VTS:

- **Continuing Education**
- **Building Faith**
- **Christian Formation and Discipleship**
- **Try Tank**
- **Forma**
- **Baptized for Life**
- **Deep Calls to Deep**
- **Thriving in Ministry**
- **Mutual Ministry Initiative**

Subscribe to their monthly newsletter: [Lifelong Learning at Virginia Theological Seminary \(list-manage.com\)](https://list-manage.com)



As part of Bexley Seabury's seminary-beyond-walls philosophy, we've launched Pathways to educate, form, and catalyze the Body of Christ to blaze new pathways for prophetic and pastoral service in response to God's call. While there is a logic and sequence to the courses and programs available, our courses, workshops, events, and activities are designed so you can choose the combination and order that best suit your interests and needs.

Particularly for Deacons

Mentoring Deacons

Geri Swanson

Sep 17-Oct 15, 2023

Growing Relational Ministries for Teams & Individuals

Elizabeth Magill

Oct 8-Nov 4, 2023

Deacons Talking on the Road to Emmaus 2nd Monday, 8:00-9:00pm ET

Strictly FYI:

Bexley Seabury Hires Hailey McKeefry Delmas as Director of Deacons Formation Collaborative

Deacons Formation Collaborative will be an affordable, accessible, adaptable, and scalable online process to prepare individuals for diaconal ministry in accordance with the Canons of the Church. The DFC is preparing to launch a mentor-assessed option for diaconal formation this Fall. The holistic process combines a deacon-focused approach to curriculum developed over forty years by the School for Deacons in the Diocese of California with a mentor-assessed, distributive learning process in development at Bexley Seabury to enable learners to progress at their own pace to prepare and demonstrate their proficiency in the Association for Episcopal Deacons (AED) competencies, typically finishing within two years. A three-member mentor team, which includes academic, denominational, and vocational mentors, guides a student to prepare for ministry in their unique context.

What additional resources for lifelong learning opportunities do you have?

Does your diocese offer lifelong learning opportunities that others may share? Why or why not?

Is cost a factor? Explain.

Is there a place in your letters of agreement for lifelong learning opportunities and payment?