



Archdeacon and Deacon Director's Conference Spring 2013 Open Space Notes

Continuing education

Facilitator: Joanne Leslie

Sampling of differing practices:

Continuing Education is undocumented and self-led in LA, an informal process

COM is Kentucky just passed a Continuing Education requirement 24 hours priests 12 hours deacons in three areas: academic, spiritual, personal & physical, three hours in each, others in whatever. COM member will receive reports.

Maine: New England Deacons Network have a weekend gathering for Continuing Education in late September / early October even # years. Odd # years Maine deacons gather on a Saturday for Continuing Education late September / early October, on a subject asked for by deacons. Deacons' annual report to the bishop includes a separate page with boxes to list what deacons have done for continuing education, including retreats, clergy days, workshops, classes, self-study, etc.

SW Florida has "required" Continuing Education but minimal reporting, not quantified. COM sees need for more formal program of Continuing Education primarily for community-building. Deacons are hoping to build online library / resource center for self-programming, using technological resources

LA: where are places to post opportunities that come up for Continuing Education? Maybe FB page? Not sure of best way to post. Maybe emails to group?

Tension: CA – started with specific required "hours" of Continuing Education – but the immediate response was to look for "what am I already doing and what can I count"? They had a weekend, during which students were required to do "elective units" – but this has been trumped by other church requirements. Recently a young faculty member created a list of 15 possibilities of what to offer, from which deacons chose one to offer. Marketing ploy: "only ten people" – it happened. Including "tea with the dean" conversations. Offered to all 4 dioceses of northern California. Reporting about continuing ed. goes to "someone in diocesan office." School acting as resource not as the only option. Those not in the group of 10 are still expected to report what they do. The rules keep changing.

Utah has a requirement for Continuing Education, but no set hours; reports go to the Executive Officer. Biggest problem is "what counts?" Does a book count? The archdeacon just got \$1000 from Finance Committee in budget for Continuing Education for the deacon community, and will ask what deacons want to learn, using the menu system.

Southern VA has no requirement beyond canonical, no reports to bishop.

What does it mean to have a requirement with no consequences?

To encourage participation in Continuing Education: Feed them. Making sandwiches standing around a table helps build community.

Joanne wants to survey, "I'm sure you're already doing...." "Continuing Education is so obvious, and let's share our successes. What was worth the time you put into it?"
2nd part: "We're now thinking about a community-building continuing education option – what are areas you might be interested in?"

Use language of "Continuing Education" such as when a famous person comes to speak, suggest people go as a "Cont. Ed. Opportunity." Marketing is important. Put it positively.

Member of Deacons Council serves as Communications & PR person (Maine and LA) = who gets out the information about Continuing Education (and other matters).

Canada has Cont. Ed. diocese by diocese, so offered but only 6 showed up – so try 6:30 evening with snacks ahead to make it more appealing.

After an event, invite response: what did you learn? What was exciting? What would you share with your fellow-deacons?

Diocese of SW FL has PR guy who sends out daily to diocesan community re. parish stuff, diaconal stuff—place to share information.

List for deacons Huron – chat, share diocesan stuff, just for deacons.

Council on Deacons SWFL has mix of presbyters, lay, and deacons, bring energy from college level re. Continuing Education.

Marketing – Deacon Council formed serendipitously at Cathedral Center, saw woman who works in news media for diocese – she did write up about first meeting. One member wants to send to Episcopal News, to have more visibility around diocese about what deacons are doing.

LoA should include funding for Continuing Education. Southern VA has LoA that says deacon will get same Continuing Education funding as any other clergy in that parish, parish by parish depending on resources available.

COM is canonically required to undertake Continuing Education. They don't. How can they require what they don't model?