

UNDERSTANDING DIAKONIA & THE DIACONATE

Module Three



**Episcopal Diocese of Florida
Deacon School
2021-2022 class**

Opening Reflection

Reflect on these words prior to beginning this Module and then, again, when you complete all assignments.

A Deacon's Prayer



*Lord Jesus, you came to serve, not to be served,
form within us your generous spirit;
Fill us with your love,
that we may love the Father as you love him.
Fill us with your compassion,
that we may see our brothers and sisters
as you see them.
Fill us with your courage,
that we may give our lives in service to the Church
as you gave your life for her.
Fill us with that Spirit which will make us
preachers of your Word,
ministers of your Sacrifice,
servants of your Bride,
Friends of the poor,
And the voice of the forgotten.
Transform us through your Holy Spirit
so that we may transform the world into
your Kingdom of justice and peace. Amen.*

Objectives

After completing this module, the Postulant will be able to:

- ✓ Explain the Biblical and traditional foundations of diaconal ministry;
- ✓ Display a familiarity with the duties of a deacon outlined in The Examination section of the diaconal ordination liturgy (*Book of Common Prayer* pp 543-544);
- ✓ Articulate the waves of TEC diaconal theology as articulated by Susan Epting;
- ✓ Articulate the role of the deacon in liturgy, preaching and catechesis;
- ✓ Demonstrate an understanding of “*diakonia*” and an affinity for the Christian theology of servanthood;
- ✓ Explain ways in which the role of deacon may change, reward and challenge those who assume it;
- ✓ Articulate an understanding of the prophetic voice of the deacon, and demonstrate it through sermon messaging; and
- ✓ Understand more fully your personal call to the Diaconate.

Required Reading

Craddock, Fred B., *Preaching* (25th anniversary edition). Nashville, TN: Abington Press, 2010.

In this standard textbook on the art and craft of preaching, Craddock weaves history, theology, and hermeneutics to answer the fundamental question: How does one prepare and deliver a sermon?

Epting, Susanne Watson, *Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2015.

Times change, and the Order of Deacons in the Episcopal Church has not remained static. While the book seeks to update contemporary knowledge about deacons, it also shows how the diaconate may be well positioned to lead the church into change that cuts across governance, formation, and ministry. While the institutional church struggles with its structure and purpose, working to change its reality and perception, the book suggests that there are diaconal leaders who have been working all along for this kind of change.

Epting, Susanne Watson, *Prophetic Voice of the Deacon*. North American Association for the Diaconate, 2008. Monograph Series No. 19.

Plater, Ormonde, *Deacons in the Liturgy*, 2nd ed. New York: Church Publishing, 2009.

Ormonde Plater served as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Louisiana and editor of *Diakonia*. In this book, he explains his passion for and deep understanding of liturgy and the deacon's role in liturgy. This is a practical, "how to" guide which spells out the deacon's function in various rites and liturgies in The Episcopal Church.

Supplementary Resources

Barnett, James Monroe, *The Diaconate: A Full and Equal Order*, rev. ed. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International, 1995.

Barnett is a priest who focused on the diaconate for his D.Min. from the University of the South, School of Theology. The book is a study of the diaconate from biblical times until the present, emphasizing the value of diaconal ministry.

Booty, John E., *The Servant Church: Diaconal Ministry and the Episcopal Church*. Wilton, Connecticut: Morehouse-Barlow Co., 1982.

Booty offers a set of theological and historical criteria by which diocesan and parish leaders, as well as Commissions on Ministry, can examine assumptions and experiences regarding ordained ministry, particularly that of deacons.

Brown, Rosalind, *Being a Deacon Today: Exploring a Distinctive Ministry in the Church and in the World*. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2005.

Brown, a priest and lecturer at the Institute of Theological Education, Sarum College, Salisbury (who was ordained and began her ministry in the United States), explains the three places where deacons minister (the church, the world, and at the margins), the three strands of their ministry (in liturgy, in pastoral care, and in catechesis), and the three actions of their ministry (praying, loving, and remembering).

Collins, John N., *Deacons and the Church: Making connections between old and new*, Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2002.

Collins clarifies his scholarly work, *Diakonia: Reinterpreting the Ancient Sources*, and explains what the results of his research mean for real world diaconal ministry.

Collins, John N., *Diakonia: Reinterpreting the Ancient Sources*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1990.

Collins shows that Greek word "diakonia" has been misused. He provides new insight into what early Christians meant when they wrote about *diakonia*. He rewrites the lexicon and challenges theologians to rethink the idea of diaconal

ministry, to restructure attempts at renewal of the diaconate, and to redraw the profile of "the servant church."

Lewis, Harold T., *Christian Social Witness: The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume Ten.* Boston, MA: Cowley Publications, 2001.

The book examines the challenges of achieving the Christian vision of a righteous social order. Lewis examines the witnesses of social justice leaders such as F.D. Maurice and William Temple, as well as issues raised by liberation theologians, third-world debt, and questions of race, gender and human sexuality.

Plater, Ormonde, *Many Servants: An Introduction to Deacons, rev. ed.* Lanham, Maryland: Cowley Publications, 2004.

Deacon Ormonde Plater explains the history of the diaconate beginning with the early church and including first-hand accounts from modern deacons. He also discusses formation, training and deployment of deacons.

Pohl, Christine D., *Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition.* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eardmans Publishing Company, 1999.

Pohl demonstrates that hospitality is central to the life of Christian faith, shows the shape of this practice from Biblical times, and demonstrates how the practice continues today by interviewing members of contemporary communities of hospitality.

Sims, Bennett J., *Servanthood: Leadership for the Third Millennium.* Boston, MA: Cowley Publications, 1997.

Sims brings the pastoral wisdom of a bishop together with insights from his years as director of the Institute for Servant Leadership. He explains the kind of servanthood that integrates the religious and secular dimensions of life and work in a leadership style modeled by Jesus, the consummate "servant leader."

Temple, William, *Christianity and the Social Order.* New York: Seabury Press (1977).

William Temple, Archbishop of Canterbury from 1942 until his death in 1944, is by common consent among the greatest holders of that office and one of the most remarkable Englishmen of the last century. This book gives clear and popular expression to views which Temple held, in general, for most of his working life. Temple asserts the Church's right to intervene in economic questions and shows that the Church has something worthwhile to say about those questions. He also emphasizes the need to determine the proper balance between the profit motive and service to the community, and between the power of the state and the freedom of the individual.

On-line Resources

Association of Episcopal Deacons: <http://www.episcopaldeacons.org/>

Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP): <https://cdsp.edu/call/>

On-line courses available through their CALL program

The Diaconate

The Diaconal Hermeneutic: The Deacon's Eyes and Ears

The Deacon's Path

Hanover Report of the Anglican-Lutheran International Commission, *The Diaconate as Ecumenical Opportunity*. London: Anglican Communion Publications, 1996, see http://www.anglicancommunion.org/ministry/ecumenical/dialogues/lutheran/docs/pdf/the_hanover_report.pdf.

This report explores theological reasons for the existence of a diaconate and the variety of present forms of diaconal ministry. It concludes that the recent renewal of the diaconate provides a place where commonality can be found among Christian denominations, and presents opportunities for ecumenical ministry.

ALTAR BOOK WORKSHEET

1. Take a look at the organization of the Altar Book. Generally explain how it is organized. What makes sense about this organization and what questions do you have?
2. What are the different prayers for Holy Communion, and in what ways are they different? Which prayers are used in your congregation? Is there a pattern regarding which prayers are used, i.e., is Prayer B always used in a certain season, etc.?
3. Take a look at the pastoral services – funerals, weddings, etc. What is the role of a deacon in these services? What other pastoral services are included in the Altar Book?
4. Where do you find the rubrics for chanting, and how do they fit with the other parts of the liturgy?
5. To which page of the Altar Book do you turn if you run out of consecrated elements and a priest needs to consecrate more?

MODULE 3 – ASSIGNMENTS

UNDERSTANDING DIAKONIA AND THE DIACONATE

Mentors: Archdeacon Jeanie Beyer/Deacon Marsha Holmes

- 1) Read *Preaching* by Fred Craddock.
 - a) After reading *Preaching* by Fred Craddock, prepare 2-3 questions to ask the preaching mentor and bring them to the September session.
 - b) After considering Craddock's book, write a 4 page paper indicating what you consider important in the development of your preaching style and content. Pay particular attention to the pastoral context of preaching. How does this relate to the preaching objective of a Deacon? In addition, consider in this paper what you believe your personal challenges are in preaching as well as what it means to preach with the voice of a Deacon.
 - c) Following the session with the Preaching Mentor, write a short paper on how the information you received reinforced or changed what you learned from Craddock and what you may have thought about preaching.
 - d) You will be required to write and deliver a sermon during Deacon School and several sermons during your internship. Listening to sermons by other Deacons may be helpful. Facilitators will help identify resources.
- 2) Read *Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed and Prophetic Voice of the Deacon*. Write a 3-5-page paper summarizing these writings by Susan Epting. In your paper, discuss possibilities you see for deacons to help change the church and the world. In what ways can deacons be a prophetic voice?
- 3) Actively participate in discussion dedicated to Deacon in the World during practicum sessions.
- 4) Read The Examination (BCP pages 527,531, and 543) for each order of ordained ministry. Discuss what these mean to you with one of your Module Three mentors.
- 5) Review the Catechism (BCP pp. 845-862). Why is the Catechism important, and how can it be used in diaconal ministry? Write a 2-page paper outlining the importance of the Catechism to your ministry.
- 6) Plater indicates that the deacon has the following roles in liturgy 1) reader of the Gospel; 2) occasional preacher; 3) leader of intercessions; 4) herald; 5) head waiter; 6) steward of wine; 7) dismisser; and 8) minister of reserved sacraments. Observe the deacon(s) in your church. If there is not a deacon assigned to your church, on at least two Sundays, attend a nearby church with a deacon. Discuss each role described by Plater and whether it is a part of the liturgical responsibilities of that deacon. Write a paper comparing the liturgical responsibilities described by Plater to the liturgical responsibilities of the deacon whom you observed. Plater describes a role of the deacon in liturgy as "one who mobilizes the church". Ask with the deacon you observed about their experience at the altar and how it influences and supports their mission in the world.

- 7) Examine all sections of the Altar Book. Review the Eucharistic Prayers, the Collects, and Proper Liturgies for Special Days. Discuss your questions about the Altar Book with your Module Three mentor. During Deacon School sessions you will have the opportunity to practice setting the book. Complete Altar Book worksheet prior to discussion with one of the Module Three mentors.
- 8) **SYNTHESIS** – Now that you have completed Module Three’s assignments, as well as in class practicums, write a 3-5 page paper indicating your current understanding of the Order of Deacons, your current ministry in the world, and the role of the Deacon in Liturgy. Include a discussion on what you believe are your growing edges.

Module Three Evaluation
Understanding Diakonia and The Diaconate

Postulant: _____

The mentor assess the Postulant's work on each assignment in the module. The mentor will document on this form, whether the assignment was completed satisfactorily. The mentor may add additional comments if desired. If the assignment is not completed satisfactorily, the mentor must add comments regarding the deficiencies. The mentor will review the evaluation with the Postulant and the Deacon School Co-facilitators.

Assignment		Complete / Incomplete
1	<p>Read <i>Preaching</i> by Fred Craddock.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) After reading <i>Preaching</i> by Fred Craddock, prepare 2-3 questions to ask the preaching mentor and bring them to the September session. b) After considering Craddock's book, as well as the lecture from the preaching mentor write a 4 page paper indicating what you consider important in the development of your preaching style and content. Pay particular attention to the pastoral context of preaching. How does this relate to the preaching objective of a Deacon? In addition, consider in this paper what you believe your personal challenges are in preaching as well as what it means to preach with the voice of a Deacon. c) You will be required to write and deliver a sermon during Deacon School and several sermons during your internship. Listening to sermons by other Deacons may be helpful. Facilitators will help identify resources. 	
2	Read <i>Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed and Prophetic Voice of the Deacon</i> . Write a 3-5-page paper summarizing these writings by Susan Epting. In your paper, discuss possibilities you see for deacons to help change the church and the world. In what ways can deacons be a prophetic voice?	
3	Actively participate in discussion dedicated to Deacon in the World during practicum sessions.	
4	Read The Examination (BCP pages 527,531, and 543) for each order of ordained ministry. Discuss what these mean to you with one of your Module Three mentors.	
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	ministry? Write a 2-page paper outlining the importance of the Catechism to your ministry.	
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8	SYNTHESIS – Now that you have completed Module Three's assignments, as well as in class practicums, write a 3-5 page paper indicating your current understanding of the Order of Deacons, your current ministry in the world, and the role of the Deacon in Liturgy. Include a discussion on what you believe are your growing edges.	

Signatures:

Mentor:

Date: _____

Postulant:

Date: _____