

Looking Through a Diaconal Lens using AED's View-Masters®

The theme of AED's presence at the 2012 General Convention of The Episcopal Church was "Looking Through a Diaconal Lens." One device used to illustrate this theme was View-Masters® with custom-made reels containing images that depict a diaconal view of issues of poverty, hunger, natural disaster, gun violence, and attending a convention. While the View-Masters are fun toys that many will recall from their youth, the images on our custom reels are provocative and designed to stimulate discussion about how a deacon looks at a particular problem or need. There was also a large prop display reel with a dozen images depicting deacons and others in action.

Since Convention, the View-Masters and reels, as well as the large prop reel, have been available to AED members for display at diocesan conventions and other gatherings. These events have included the recent Archdeacons and Formation Directors Conference in Linthicum, Maryland, and upcoming Diaconal Assembly in Williamsburg, Virginia. The items will continue to circulate as long as they hold up and remain in demand.

The View-Masters and reel sets are available upon request, first-come first-served, with the understanding that the recipient will be responsible for the cost of returning the items to AED or shipping them to their next destination. We have been circulating sets of two View-Masters with one each of the five custom reels. The cost of shipping these items is approximately \$6. We can also provide a supply of "diaconal lens" postcards, which will be yours to keep and distribute as handout items.

The large prop reel is available separately as a display item. It comes in four pieces that assemble into a six foot diameter "reel." It is light but somewhat cumbersome, and the shipping cost is closer to \$75.

To reserve any of these items or for more information contact AED Board member [John Cumming](#). Please remember that these items are being provided on a first-come first served basis. We will need at least a few weeks advance notice to get the items to you on a timely basis, and you in turn must commit to shipping the items promptly to their next destination.