

AED's Archdeacon & Deacon Directors' Conference – February 2019

WHAT IS AN ARCHDEACON?

Susan von Rautenkranz – Diocese of Washington

Sarah Getts – Diocese of Arizona

Sue shared the following two questions as the reason why Margaret Thor desired to facilitate this Open Space.

- Why is it important and what values are in the Archdeacon ministry?
- Who can be called to fulfill the role?

Introductions around the table to answer the above questions:

Pat Soukup – Diocese of Rio Grande Only has had an Archdeacon role in the last two years. At this point the role is not clear.

Tina Hideman Diocese of El Camino Real – new to the role so just here to glean information.
Rod Dugliss – School for Deacons – we have a rich community of deacons and on-going support needed. A person with the authority.

Judith Cross – Diocese of Iowa. No deacon gathering in last 3 or 4 years. Not getting a lot of people coming to the COM towards the diaconate. Looking to gather information to take back to the bishop

Gen Grewell – Diocese of Olympia – First Archdeacon who is a deacon in the Diocese of Olympia. Gatherer and organizer of the community of deacons. An individual who holds authority to work with the deacons. Bishop is supportive. Act as a liaison with deacons, an advocate for deacons. Assists with deployment. Assists with issues as they may arise.

Roxanne Klingensmith – right hand person to bishop. Main role to nurture and advocate for deacons.

Faye Sommers – diocese of Southeast Florida, first deacon Archdeacon. Bishop new to diocese, very supportive. Still learning and looking for role models.

Marti Holmes – Diocese of Alabama – 2nd archdeacon, organizer and group development, administrator of all the paperwork, building relationships with bishop and priests Advocacy and leadership. Collects all the data from Annual Reports and summarizes and sends all on to the bishop.

Sarah Getts – To save time, she does all that Marti Holmes indicated above.

Marshall Wyman – Diocese of S. Ohio – Advocate, if there is a complaint against a deacon, conflict resolution with Canon to the Ordinary. Speak for the needs of the deacon.

Sue von Rautenkranz – Diocese of Washington

Responsible for School/Formation
Responsible for Life and Work of Deacons
Responsible for Discernment

Holly Hanback – Diocese of Virginia – Convener of deacons

Ken Barker from Diocese of Toronto – historically no archdeacons. Outgoing Archbishop of diocese appointed him. Had been coordinator of deacons prior to being appointed.

Bette Kaufmann – Diocese of Western Louisiana – asked to be Archdeacon to create a community of deacons. Gathers the deacons, do pastoral care of deacons. Only 4 active deacons

Lynn Johnson – Diocese of New Jersey – provide informational workshops on the Diaconate to those who are discerning for the diaconate. New Jersey has 4 archdeacons. Lynn is archdeacon for discernment, archdeacon for deployment, archdeacon for pastoral care, archdeacon for diakonia

Around the table it is clear how much diversity there is in what archdeacons do, whether they have a budget or some are not or even paid.

Issue of authority across the church, is the biggest piece as far as archdeacons
Communication is authority. Advocacy piece is the primary focus for deacons.

Letters of Agreement are a must between deacons, rector and bishop.

Marti Holmes indicated that in their letters they have added a line for reimbursement for mileage and continuing education, plus discretionary, expenses to cover attendance at convention.
Another role of advocacy is in the diocese as a whole – promoting the diaconate

Sarah Getts shared they have Deacon Beacon which is issued once a month. A deacon is featured each month.

A request to have job descriptions of Archdeacons posted on the AED website
Letter of agreements as well to be posted on the website

Deacon's Council vs. Archdeacon or both.

Most in group did not have Councils if they have Archdeacons.

An Archdeacon is - A point person, someone the bishop trust, someone a priest will trust – talk things out, if this doesn't solve it let's get together with the bishop

Ecclesiological – office and order of deacons is a diocesan office, not a parochial office.

In Diocese of Washington - All deacons are collaborative by their nature so in their letters of agreement, after six months the deacon will spend 1 Sunday month in another congregation to begin to help develop collaborative ministries