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The expression of the Diaconate in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island

Those individuals the church calls to the order of Deacon in the Diocese of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island must: (1) adhere to the expectations and guidance of the Bishop and, (2) must adhere to the Competencies presently being prepared by the Anglican Church of Canada, (3) discerners and their supporting parish, should have a clearly articulated and defined diaconal ministry, (4) the life of a deacon must be an example of looking for Christ in all others and being ready to help and serve those in need.

- I. Deacons are normally licensed to a Parish and are directly accountable to the Rector of said Parish. Any exceptions to this are at the Bishop's discretion.
- II. Deacons may be informally known as "Deacon John/Jane Doe" or "Dn. Doe." If and when a formal title is required, it shall be: "The Rev Deacon John/Jane Doe." Those ordained deacons who anticipate also being ordained priest, are referred to as transitional deacons. Those ordained deacon with no anticipation for priestly ordination will be referred to as Deacon.
- III. Deacons may wear a clerical collar.
- IV. Regarding liturgical wear, a deacon may wear a dalmatic over an alb if the practice is consistent with local tradition, and a stole worn over the left shoulder and tied or fastened under the right arm. Deacons may also choose to wear a cassock, surplice and tippet.
- V. If a deacon is liturgically present for the Eucharist, he or she functions under the direct authority of the presiding bishop or priest. It is the deacon's role to proclaim the Gospel. They also prepare and clear the Altar at Eucharist. The deacon proclaims the dismissal at the end of the Eucharist. Deacons may also assist in intercessions, administering the sacraments, and reading lessons if those roles do not take away lay involvement.
- VI. When appropriate, deacons may preach. The deacon has the special responsibility to promote the diaconal message of Jesus Christ, which is to speak to the church and motivate the Church to serve the poor, the sick, the suffering, the helpless, and those in need, as well as to encourage people to live out their baptismal ministries.
- VII. A deacon may conduct a funeral with consultation and approval of a priest. With the priest's permission, a deacon may baptise (and, as with lay persons, may perform an emergency baptism). Deacons will not perform marriages.
- VIII. For a Sunday liturgy, the deacon may lead worship using Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer or approved liturgies of the Word. Deacons may bring the Sacrament to the ill and homebound. A deacon may not officiate at the Liturgy of the Word with distribution of Reserved Sacrament in lieu of a full celebration of the Eucharist in a congregation (the sometimes called 'deacon's mass').

- IX. Deacons are full members of the college of clergy and as such have voice and vote at Synod in accordance with the Constitution of the Diocese. They may serve as clergy on the councils of the Diocese and wider Church. They are invited to attend clergy days and clergy conference, but may be excused if their attendance conflicts with secular work or personal schedules.
- X. Deacons are encouraged to continue in the life-long process of Christian formation, which involves an intentional form of continuing education in their field of focus and in the life, prayer and ministry of the Church.
- XI. As a condition of license, Deacons in the Diocese of NS and PEI will attend the Community of Deacons' formation and continuing education events which occur throughout the year. It is important both for individuals exercising diaconal ministry and for the Community of Deacons, to gather as a community on a regular basis.
- XII. Funding for the formation and continuing education program for deacons will be provided by an annual levy on parishes where deacons are licensed.