



Qualities of Future Deacons

1. **Firm spiritual foundation rooted in Jesus:** Spiritual leadership requires an openness to God cultivated by a disciplined spiritual life of prayer, worship, spiritual attentiveness, and actions of caring and justice. Jesus' life and ministry inspire and guide the deacon's way of living and serving God and humanity. Deacons are expected to model this spiritual journey of engaging Scripture daily, lifelong learning, personal prayer and reflection, and cultivating spiritual depth throughout their entire lives.
2. **Proclaim the Good News in the world:** Deacons will demonstrate the ability to communicate and apply the gospel of Jesus Christ to the needs and realities of the present day and surroundings, especially prophetic witness. Effective proclamation includes the ability to invite others to follow Jesus more faithfully and witness to the world in love. Deacons are called to be a vocal and passionate public witness of our faith and stand against systems of oppression and injustice. Deacons will call all followers of Jesus to grow in grace and in the likeness of Christ, claiming their call to discipleship and to the work of service, reconciliation and social justice.
3. **Interpreter to the Church:** Deacons will show the ability to raise awareness of injustice and invite meaningful response from the Church to call forth and prepare others in service to those in need. This will require deacons to be engaged with the wider community outside the walls of their churches. They will demonstrate the ability to gather and empower people inside and outside the Church. They will have a collaborative mindset. Deacons will have history of community involvement with community and non-church affiliated organizations. Deacons are to call congregations to be innovative and take risks. They will be called to help people see the constantly changing context of the reality that exists beyond the walls of the church building.
4. **Call members of the Body of Christ to live into their baptismal call:** Deacons will recognize that all Christians are called to live in community and seek out communal experiences. All deacons will be dedicated to raising up every member in their vocation, to empower and equip a lay-led, clergy-supported model of ministry.
5. **Integrity/Character:** Deacons will possess authenticity, transparency, creativity, honesty in communication and in all relationships. All deacons will embody the love of God through qualities of genuineness, empathy, compassion, and presence.



6. **Maintains appropriate boundaries:** Deacons will define and to establish and maintain appropriate personal and ministerial boundaries both within the parish and in work in the community. Deacons need to have proven strength to establish, develop, and maintain healthy relationships. They will model rest and time of sabbath to reflect and renew one's spirit.

7. **Cross-cultural competence:** Our communities are becoming more diverse and the Episcopal Church is learning how to interact with this new reality. Prospective deacons should have experience(s) in a culture that is vastly different than their own. They should be able to be in communities with people of different ethnicities, sexual orientations, differing abilities, gender expressions, generations, and socioeconomic classes. The ability to speak one or more languages, in addition to English, is strongly desired.

8. **Humble service:** The deacon's ministry of service is a sign or sacrament of Jesus, who came not to be served but to serve. Deacons will commit to serve collegially among deacons and priests, under the authority and direction of the bishop. Deacons will venture to the margins of society and call congregations to join in ministry along with them to serve with all of God's people, attentive to those people who are sick, poor, disempowered, lonely, or living without hope.