

What Is a Deacon?

Deacons in the Christian Reformed Church provide leadership in these four ministry areas:

Compassion

Deacons model and demonstrate compassion to those who are hurting with words of hope and actions for encouragement.

Community Ministry

Deacons model and encourage the congregation to be engaged in community ministry in their communities.

Stewardship

Deacons encourage church members to be stewards of God's creation and to practice authentic stewardship with their time, talents, and money.

Justice

Deacons model and encourage the congregation to be advocates *for* and *with* the marginalized and vulnerable people in their own local community.

“Effective” diaconates do the following:

- ❑ *are able to share stories about God's amazing generosity illustrated through compassion shown by His people.*
- ❑ *provide support to one another and create a safe place to share experiences, ask questions and pray together.*
- ❑ *have clearly, written goals that describes who does what. This provides accountability, establishes a common purpose, provides a focus, enables deacons to evaluate what is being done, and offers a sense of accomplishment.*
- ❑ *are impacting the congregation in its values and activities of compassion, community ministry, justice and stewardship.*
- ❑ *acknowledge, cultivate and use the gifts of the congregational members as well as those who live in the community.*