

What Is a Deacon?

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

Compassion

Deacons stimulate and demonstrate compassion to those who are hurting with words/deeds of hope and encouragement.

Community Ministry

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

Stewardship

Deacons encourage the church's members to authentic stewardship of time, talents, trees, and money.

Justice

Deacons model and encourage the congregation to be advocates *for* and *with* the voiceless ones 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.*