

Sharpening Skills Through Workshops

The following workshops are available from the staff of Diaconal Ministries Canada. The description provides a summary of each workshop's content.

Deacons on the Move (4 parts)

Participants will:

- discover the ministry of the deacon,
- learn how to use everyone's gifts in diaconal ministry,
- discover the opportunities of deacons with the community,
- and learn discover the benefits of partners in diaconal ministry.

Goal Setting in Your Diaconate

Participants will:

- understand the value of setting goals,
- develop a clearer sense of mission for the diaconate,
- learn about the role that each deacon has in ministry,
- and find specific ways in which to involve the congregation in ministry.

Visiting: The Gift It Can Be

Participants will:

- explore how a visit serves as a channel of Christ's love and concern,
- discuss the need for our own openness in a visit,
- learn how to listen,
- learn how to explore needs,
- learn how to build prayer into a visit,
- and discover ways to share words of hope.

Leading an Effective Diaconate

Participants will:

- explore actions and attitudes that encourage others,
- look at different ways of seeing the church,
- make distinctions between committees and communities,
- discuss characteristics of a good leader,
- and develop a helpful format for a meeting agenda.

Circle of Chairs

Participants will:

- share workplans,
- share stories when their diaconate was most vibrant,
- discover opportunities to assist each other to become more effective,
- discover opportunities to serve each other and together,
- and discuss how Diaconal Ministries Canada serves deacons.

Doorways in our Community

Participants will:

- discover different *doorways* through which the church can interact with the community,
- identify the types of relationships that can develop through each *doorway*;
- identify examples of ministry activities for each *doorway*,
- and discuss the implications of open doorways for the church.

Building a Community Ministry

Participants will:

- discuss characteristics of effective community ministry,
- identify steps to building a ministry,
- learn about Operation Manna,
- and discover existing resources.

Conducting a Community Opportunity Scan (COS)

Participants will:

- identify the value of conducting a COS,
- discuss the difference between needs and opportunities,
- review the 7-components of the COS process,
- and hear about the COS experience of other churches.

Releasing Ourselves and Others for Ministry

Participants will:

- discover every believer has gifts for ministry,
- learn how every gift has value,
- realize God's design is interdependence,
- and discuss how to release oneself and others for service.