



OPC National Diaconal Summit IV 2022

June 2-4, 2022

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Agenda for the National Diaconal Summit IV 2022

June 2-4, 2022

THURSDAY			
3:00-6:00 PM	Registration - Staffing	Fischer Hall	
3:00-6:00 PM	BBQ Picnic		
6:30 PM	Plenary Session #1 "Diaconal Leadership Today"	Rev. Bill Shishko	Barrows Auditorium
7:30 PM	Q/A "Diaconal Leadership Today"		
8:00 PM	Fellowship Time	Option: Keul Patio Firepits (Beamer Student Center)	
FRIDAY			
7:15 AM	Breakfast	Beamer Student Center Cafeteria	
8:00 AM	Picture	Wheaton Sign	
8:30 AM	Plenary Session #2 "The Deacon and His Congregation"	Rev. Craig Troxel	Barrows Auditorium
9:30 AM	Q/A "The Deacon and His Congregation"		
10:00 AM	Break		
10:30 AM	Workshop #1		
	#1: Ministry to the Spiritually Immature	Seth Long	Blanchard 339 (Blanchard Hall)
	#2: Ministry to, and with, People with Disabilities	Rev. Stephen Tracey	Meyer 145 (Meyer Science Center)
	#3: Your Diaconate and Your Denomination	David Nakhla	Phelps Room (Beamer Center 004)
12:00 Noon	Lunch (served until 1 PM—dining area open later)	Beamer Student Center Cafeteria	
1:30 PM	Plenary Session #3: "The Deacon and His Community"	Rev. Al Tricarico	Barrows Auditorium
2:30 PM	Q/A "The Deacon and His Community"		
3:00 PM	Break		
3:30 PM	Workshop #2		
	#4: Ministry to the Stranger	Rev. Deryck Barson	Blanchard 339 (Blanchard Hall)
	#5: Disaster Response for the Local Church	Mike Cloy	Phelps Room (Beamer Center 004)
	#6: Mercy Ministry in a Social-Justice World	Rev. Eric Watkins	Meyer 145 (Meyer Science Center)
5:00 PM	Supper	Beamer Student Center Cafeteria	
6:30 PM	Worship Service "The Ministry that Deacons Need"	Rev. Ron Pearce	Barrows Auditorium
8:00 PM	Fellowship	Option: Keul Patio Firepits (Beamer Student Center)	
SATURDAY			
7:15 AM	Check out—items can be stored in designated locked area of Fischer until departure from the College	Fischer Hall (storage is Fischer 137)	
7:15-8:00 AM	Breakfast	Beamer Student Center Cafeteria	
8:30 AM	Workshop #3		
	#7: Doing Business as Deacons	Chris Sudlow	Phelps Room (Beamer Center 004)
	#8: Strategy and Guidelines for Diaconal Ministry	Luke Fawcett	Blanchard 339 (Blanchard Hall)
	#9: Refugee Relief	Rev. Chris Cashen	Meyer 145 (Meyer Science Center)
10:00 AM	Summit Devotional and Wrap-Up	Rev. Nathan Trice	Barrows Auditorium
11:15 AM	Early Bus & Box Lunches	Fischer Hall	
11:45 AM	Lunch (served until 1 PM—dining area open later)	Beamer Student Center Cafeteria	
1:00 PM	Late Bus	Fischer Hall	



Wheaton College Information

Internet Access

Wifi Network: WC-Conference

Password: wheaton22

Campus Amenities

Sam's Café - will be open this summer Monday-Friday from 8am-3pm. Sam's has coffee, ice cream, and other small grab and go items. It's located on the Lower Level of the Beamer Center.

The Wheaton campus bookstore - hours are 10am-5pm. The bookstore is located in the Student Services Building that is directly across from the entrance to Anderson Commons. They have a lot of Wheaton merchandise, but also have a section with snacks, tech supplies, and other personal care items.

Campus Security

The Wheaton College Department of Public Safety is dedicated to the protection of life and property and to the prevention of crime, fire and accidents. Uniformed officers are on duty 24 hours a day patrolling campus facilities, streets and parking lots to keep our community safe.

These numbers are monitored 24 hours a day:

- On-Campus Emergency or Service: 630.752.5911
- Emergency taking place off-campus: 911
- Student Health Services: 630.752.5072
- Work Order Center: 630.752.7930
- Campus Operator: 630.752.5000

All emergencies and requests for service can be handled by calling x5911 from any campus extension. Since they're in and around campus, Public Safety officers are able to respond faster than other agencies and are familiar with campus buildings without needing to know a specific address.

Parking

Parking is free of charge to conference guests in campus lots. Parking permits are issued at check-in and are for designated lots. Permits are not required for commuters parking during daytime hours. Commuters may park at Fischer Hall, Traber Hall, or in the Jenks, Edman Chapel, or Billy Graham Hall lots. Vehicles parking overnight should be parked in the designated lot assigned to your group.

City ordinances and College policy prohibit any motor vehicle being used for housing while parked on College premises. This restriction is applicable to all RVs and motor homes. Routine Public Safety patrols will verify that vehicles are not being used for housing.

Cars are not allowed on the Franklin walking mall in front of Edman Chapel or any location with pavers throughout campus.

Campus Policies

Animals are not allowed in any campus facility with the exception of assistance animals.

Tobacco use is prohibited in all campus facilities, including residence halls.

Alcohol, firearms, cannabis (smoked or edible) including synthetic products that mimic the effects of cannabis (K2 or Spice) and non-prescription drugs are prohibited on campus.

Fischer Hall

Fischer Hall is located at 600 East Harrison Avenue. Rooms are arranged in suites with a bathroom between two rooms. Bathroom doors do not lock. Guests should work out a system of knocking with their suite mates. Most rooms contain two single beds, two desks, two dressers, closet space, and a window.

A laundry room is located on the lower level. A television, recreational equipment, and snack machines are located on the lower level. All floors have a lounge on each wing. Each keycard issued at check-in will access only the floor and room to which it is assigned. Guests will have access to their floor and room, but no other floors.

There is a sidewalk ramp on the south side of the building provides entrance to the main floor lounge. The north side with the "U" driveway has stairs only. Elevator service is available to all floors. A public accessible restroom is located off the main lobby.

Additional Residence Hall Services

Lost and Found items should be turned in to a staff person at the lobby desk. All unclaimed lost and found will be returned to the Meeting Planner post conference.

Residence hall outer doors are locked at all times. The only exception to this policy is during published registration and check-in times at the beginning of a conference. Quiet hours in the residence hall living areas are from 11:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m.

Linen exchanges are handled by the Event Services staff members at the lobby desks. Limited towel and washcloth replacement is available. One pillow is furnished per bed. Housekeeping service is not provided.

Check-Out

Check-out procedures are outlined on the door signs posted in each guest room.

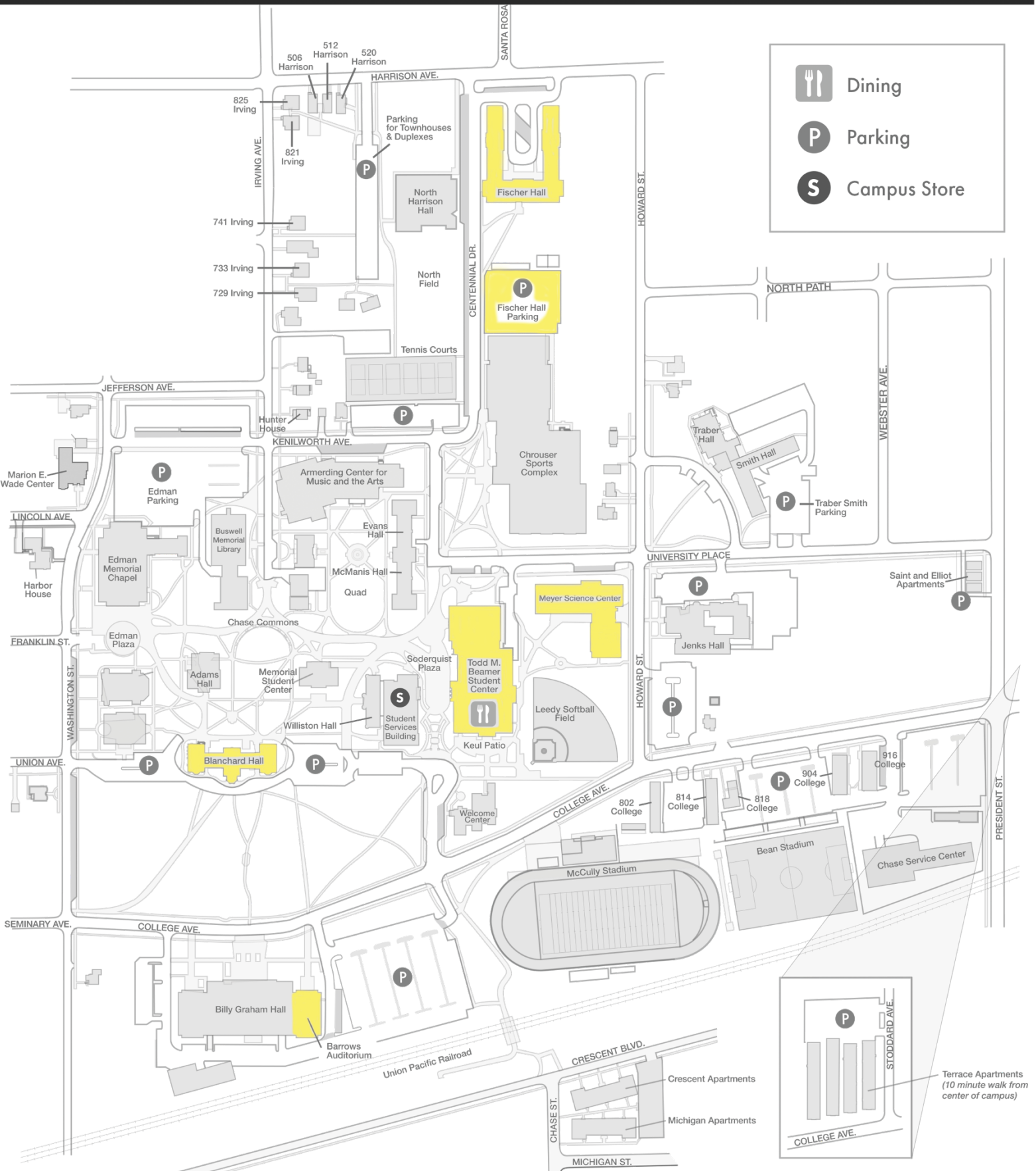
Attendees are asked to deposit their soiled linens in the bin in the lobby prior to check-out. All keycards should be returned at check-out, either to the desk staff or to the key deposit box. Charges will be assessed for all missing keycards in the final billing. Late check-outs cannot be accommodated.

Keycards

For security purposes, anyone who has lost or misplaced their keycard, or has locked their keycard in their room, will be asked to properly identify themselves prior to being admitted to their room. Anyone needing assistance with key-related problems should contact the Event Services staff member in the lobby of their residence hall.

Persons asking for admittance who do not have ID will be accompanied by a Wheaton College staff member to their room where they will be asked to show ID upon entrance to the room.

Attendees who have lost keycards will be issued a new one following proper identification. Attendees who lose keycards should report the loss to an Event Services staff member (or to Public Safety if an Event Services staff member is not available) in order to gain access to the residence hall and have the keycard replaced.



OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

Last Name	First Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	OPC Presbytery	Church Name	Church City	Church State	Other Denomination
Agen	Joshua	jaagen@hotmail.com	(734) 645-4482	Deacon	Wisconsin & Minnesota-PWM	New Hope OPC	Green Bay	Wisconsin	
Allen	Arthur	doublea62@gmail.com	(919) 801-7313	Deacon	Southeast - PSE	Shiloh OPC	Raleigh	North Carolina	
Alsum	Patrick	pat_alsum@hotmail.com	(847) 224-2675	Deacon	Midwest - PMW	Grace OPC	Hanover Park	Illinois	
Altensee	Jim	jalt58lf@earthlink.net	(937) 479-0231	Deacon	Ohio - POH	Covenant OPC	Vandalia	Ohio	
Altieri	Geno	christianitythetruth@yahoo.com	(619) 313-7455	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Bayview OPC	Chula Vista	California	
Alvarado	Miguel	malvaradosr@gmail.com	(669) 225-8858	Deacon	Northern California & Nevada - PNCNV	Covenant OPC	San Jose	California	
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Archer	Paul	archerpl54@yahoo.com	(614) 306-3727	Deacon	Ohio - POH	Grace OPC	Columbus	Ohio	
Bangs	Robert	robbangs@hotmail.com	(609) 707-4291	Deacon	New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	Immanuel OPC	Bellmawr	New Jersey	
Barcley	Leo	lbarcley@shilohopc.org	(704) 942-8876	Deacon	Southeast - PSE	Shiloh OPC	Raleigh	North Carolina	
Barnard	Christopher	chrisbarnard01@gmail.com	(850) 567-7486	Deacon	South - PSO	Lake Sherwood OPC	Orlando	Florida	
Barnes	Daniel	daniellbarnes@gmail.com	(240) 354-3159	Deacon	Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Trinity Reformed OPC	Lanham	Maryland	
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Cath	Cameron	cameronscath@gmail.com	(757) 630-7670	Deacon In-Training	Southeast - PSE	Reformation OPC	Virginia Beach	Virginia	
Chae	Choonsik	chaega72@gmail.com	(714) 309-0393	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Theophilus OPC	Anaheim	California	
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OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

Last Name	First Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	OPC Presbytery	Church Name	Church City	Church State	Other Denomination
Choi	Yong	yscucb@gmail.com	(619) 954-2771	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Theophilus OPC	Anaheim	California	
Chung	Richard	rkychung@gmail.com	(650) 490-6087	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Theophilus OPC	Anaheim	California	
Cirola	Nicholas	nicholastcirola@gmail.com	(631) 525-6097	Deacon In-Training	Connecticut & Southern New York - PCSNY	Trinity OPC	Syosset	New York	
Clites	Tyler	tlclites@gmail.com	(813) 716-6862	Deacon	South - PSO	Providence OPC	Bradenton	Florida	
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Folkerts	Robert	rjf.fwf@gmail.com	(201) 337-0437	Deacon	New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	Grace OPC	Westfield	New Jersey	
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OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

Last Name	First Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	OPC Presbytery	Church Name	Church City	Church State	Other Denomination
Grigg	Spencer	sgrigg@wsifitness.com	(704) 578-1073	Elder	Southeast - PSE	Reformation OPC	Gastonia	North Carolina	
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Herrera	Merari	merari.herrera@gmail.com	(310) 592-4456	Deacon In-Training	Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Grace Fellowship OPC	Zeeland	Michigan	
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Hong	Yousik	yousikhong@yahoo.com	(714) 308-6477	Pastor	Southern California - PSC	Theophilus OPC	Anaheim	California	
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Langnes	Robert	rlangnes@sbcglobal.net	(414) 412-8875	Deacon	Wisconsin & Minnesota-PWM	Covenant OPC	New Berlin	Wisconsin	
Lascaze	Daniel	dlascaze@comcast.net	(603) 296-5647	Deacon	New York & New England - PNYNE	Amoskeag OPC	Manchester	New Hampshire	
Lee	Tim	timosar@gmail.com	(909) 583-3512	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Sovereign Grace OPC	Redlands	California	
Lehman	Nathan	nathanlehman1@gmail.com	(989) 750-4986	Deacon In-Training	Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Hillsdale OPC	Hillsdale	Michigan	

OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

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Little	Caleb	jcaleblittle@gmail.com	(219) 916-1659	Deacon	Southwest - PSW	Trinity OPC	Waco	Texas	
Long	Seth	seth.long@homesinc.work	(606) 634-2426	Elder	Southeast - PSE	Neon Reformed OPC	Neon	Kentucky	
Loredo	Victor	vbloredo@gmail.com	(651) 323-8397	Deacon In-Training	Southwest - PSW	Mid Cities OPC	Bedford	Texas	
Lucas	James	lucasjl@snet.net	(203) 287-0444	Deacon	Connecticut & Southern New York - PCSNY	Westminster OPC	Hamden	Connecticut	
Lynam	Andrew	amlynam3@gmail.com	(252) 230-6673	Deacon In-Training	Southeast - PSE	Shiloh OPC	Raleigh	North Carolina	
Macdonald	Doug	douglas.w.macdonald@gmail.com	(515) 943-1881	Deacon In-Training	Midwest - PMW	Grace Reformed OPC	Des Moines	Iowa	
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MacLean	Jason	Jmacle@aol.com	(207) 408-0876	Deacon	New York & New England - PNYNE	Second Parish OPC	Portland	Maine	
Majauskas	Stephen	smajauskas@yahoo.com	(415) 328-8049	Deacon In-Training	n/a	Bethany URC	Wyoming	Michigan	URC
Marshall	Michael	luke6_31@hotmail.com	(920) 229-4722	Deacon	Wisconsin & Minnesota-PWM	Resurrection OPC	Oshkosh	Wisconsin	
Martel	Charles	alcharmartel@aol.com	(267) 222-2513	Deacon	Philadelphia - PPH	Calvary OPC	Glenside	Pennsylvania	
Martzke	Jason	jason.martzke@gmail.com	(847) 404-6979	Deacon	Midwest - PMW	Bethel OPC	Wheaton	Illinois	
Mattoon	Paul	paulmattoon@yahoo.com	(214) 837-6811	Deacon	Southwest - PSW	Faith OPC	Garland	Texas	
McBane	Huell	huellmcbane@gmail.com	(470) 207-2876	Deacon In-Training	Southeast - PSE	Redeemer OPC	Atlanta	Georgia	
McCallum	Bruce	bruce@mccallum-group.com	(678) 296-7145	Deacon	Southeast - PSE	Covenant OPC	Buford	Georgia	
McClelland	Kenton	kenton.mcclelland@nafinc.com	(714) 421-3170	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Grace OPC	Costa Mesa	California	
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McDaniel	Steve	stevemcdaniel1@gmail.com	(609) 680-5450	Pastor	Philadelphia - PPH	Calvary OPC	Glenside	Pennsylvania	
McElvain	Derek	dmcelvain@protonmail.com	(269) 929-7612	Deacon	Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Community OPC	Kalamazoo	Michigan	
McKim	Stuart	mckim@lifetime.oregonstate.edu	(760) 975-2191	Deacon	Northwest - PNW	New Geneva OPC	Idaho Falls	Idaho	
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OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

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Ooms	Justin	ooms.justink@gmail.com	(708) 743-7173	Deacon In-Training	Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Harvest OPC	Wyoming	Michigan	
Palmer	Myron	myron12850@gmail.com	(616) 304-8567	Deacon	Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Redeemer OPC	Ada	Michigan	
Palmer	Mark	mrpalmer@mchsi.com	(256) 541-0832	Deacon	South - PSO	Providence OPC	Madison	Alabama	
Patocs	Alexander	alexander+regfox@patocspack.com	(623) 687-4868	Deacon	Southern California - PSC	Calvin OPC	Phoenix	Arizona	
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OPC National Diaconal Summit IV Attendees by Name

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Stob	John	jjstob.sscage@yahoo.com	(708) 949-9507	Deacon	Midwest - PMW	Covenant OPC	Orland Park	Illinois	
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OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
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Central Pennsylvania - CPA	Pennsylvania	State College	Resurrection OPC	Derek	Henderlong	derekhendo10@gmail.com	(814) 590-5149	Deacon	
Central Pennsylvania - CPA	Pennsylvania	State College	Resurrection OPC	Barry	Kroeker	bkroeker1@comcast.net	(814) 359-8597	Deacon	
Central Pennsylvania - CPA	Pennsylvania	Williamsport	New Life OPC	Doug	Baxter	matt+doug@hoppes.us	(570) 707-3000	Deacon	
Central Pennsylvania - CPA	Pennsylvania	Williamsport	New Life OPC	Matt	Hoppes	matt@hoppes.us	(570) 707-3000	Deacon	
Central Pennsylvania - CPA	Pennsylvania	Williamsport	New Life OPC	Len	Richards	matt+len@hoppes.us	(570) 707-3000	Deacon	
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Connecticut & Southern New York - PCSNY	New York	Deer Park	The Haven OPC	Bill	Shishko	WShishko@gmail.com	(516) 581-5242	Pastor	
Connecticut & Southern New York - PCSNY	New York	Franklin Square	Franklin Square OPC	Victor	Nivar	vnivar@gmail.com	(646) 722-8790	Deacon	
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Dakotas - PDA	Colorado	Broomfield	Bethel OPC	Richard	Ross	rvirichard@msn.com	(303) 652-2486	Deacon	
Dakotas - PDA	North Dakota	Mandan	Bethel OPC	Christopher	Campbell	cpcampbell7@gmail.com	(701) 391-1158	Elder	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Ada	Redeemer OPC	Myron	Palmer	myron12850@gmail.com	(616) 304-8567	Deacon	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Brighton	Covenant OPC	Jason	Chamberlain	jayandbeck@gmail.com	(810) 459-0335	Deacon In-Training	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Brighton	Covenant OPC	Abraham	Thomas	bennyuncle@hotmail.com	(718) 347-4439	Deacon In-Training	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Brighton	Covenant OPC	Douglas	Doll	doug.doll@att.net	(810) 599-4232	Pastor	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Farmington Hills	Oakland Hills Community OPC	Phil	Brink	brinkpn@outlook.com	(313) 278-1420	Deacon	
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Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Farmington Hills	Oakland Hills Community OPC	Stephen	Walsh	steve0155@sbcglobal.net	(734) 716-9996	Deacon	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Gowen	Spencer Mills OPC	Bob	Walenga	bluerunner6757@outlook.com	(616) 302-2947	Deacon	
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Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Zeeland	Grace Fellowship OPC	Tom	Van ree	tomvr@legacyprecisionmolds.com	(616) 532-6536	Deacon In-Training	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Zeeland	Grace Fellowship OPC	Merari	Herrera	merari.herrera@gmail.com	(310) 592-4456	Deacon In-Training	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Michigan	Zeeland	Grace Fellowship OPC	Michael	Schout	pastor@gracefellowshipopc.com	(616) 401-3203	Pastor	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Ontario	Beamsville	Living Hope OPC	Maurice	Brink	mauricebrink@gmail.com	(289) 922-8565	Deacon	
Michigan & Ontario - PM&O	Ontario	Sheffield	Grace Covenant OPC	Adam	Vandermaarel	adamvandermaarel@gmail.com	(905) 975-7510	Deacon In-Training	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Maryland	California	Grace & Peace OPC	Robert	Moser	robert.moser.1985@gmail.com	(757) 572-3415	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Maryland	Lanham	Trinity Reformed OPC	Daniel	Barnes	daniellbarnes@gmail.com	(240) 354-3159	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Maryland	Lanham	Trinity Reformed OPC	Christopher	Cashen	cbcashen@gmail.com	(757) 717-0040	Pastor	

OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Virginia	Fredericksburg	Bethel OPC	William	Muchler	Bill.Muchler.ICR@gmail.com	(540) 840-7808	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Virginia	Manassas	Acacia Reformed OPC	Jared	Grigg	jgrigg829@gmail.com	(703) 504-8628	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Virginia	Manassas	Acacia Reformed OPC	Stephen	Mouring	stephenmouring.deacon@gmail.com	(540) 522-9906	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Virginia	Purcellville	Ketocin Covenant OPC	Patrick	Whitmore	pkwhitmore7@gmail.com	(301) 473-7898	Deacon	
Mid-Atlantic - PMA	Virginia	Purcellville	Ketocin Covenant OPC	Ben	Franks	pastorben@ketocin.org	(316) 821-6936	Pastor	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Crystal Lake	Christ Covenant OPC	David	Yen	daveyen1@gmail.com	(847) 665-9580	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Hanover Park	Grace OPC	Patrick	Alsum	pat_alsum@hotmail.com	(847) 224-2675	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Hanover Park	Grace OPC	Stephen	Dennison	sdennison4@yahoo.com	(630) 849-6204	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Hanover Park	Grace OPC	Joe	Bootsma	joebootsma@gmail.com	(630) 359-1694	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Joliet	New Covenant Community OPC	Gregory	Machak	gjmachak@yahoo.com	(815) 409-6637	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Joliet	New Covenant Community OPC	Peter	Murany	petemurany@att.net	(773) 255-7246	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Joliet	New Covenant Community OPC	Steven	Schuler	shellnutss@gmail.com	(815) 954-3750	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Harold	Hamstra	halhamstra@gmail.com	(708) 363-8151	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Pete	Onnink	peteopc@hotmail.com	(920) 207-3795	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	David	Pontier	dpontier@hotmail.com	(708) 954-6796	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	John	Stob	jistob.sscage@yahoo.com	(708) 949-9507	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Jason	Voss	jasonvoss12@gmail.com	(708) 805-0605	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	John	Voss	Keepsake179@gmail.com	(708) 302-1479	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Stephen	Voss	stephenvoss13@gmail.com	(708) 805-3605	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Zachery	Beezhold	zachery.beezhold@gmail.com	(815) 685-9334	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Ryan	Keane	ryan.keane@startmail.com	(708) 631-8779	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Vince	Van Schouwen	vince2213@gmail.com	(708) 363-3260	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Kevin	Vermeer	knvermeer@gmail.com	(708) 297-4798	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Orland Park	Covenant OPC	Colin	Oleniczak	colin.oleniczak@gmail.com	(630) 488-2975	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Rockford	Providence OPC	Peter	Heinisch	Pvheinisch@hotmail.com	(815) 621-2269	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	South Holland	First OPC	Kyle	Vander Zee	kylvndrz@gmail.com	(708) 560-3830	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Pete	Hybert	phybert@gmail.com	(630) 344-9774	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Jason	Martzke	jason.martzke@gmail.com	(847) 404-6979	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Zach	Meadows	zorkmead@comcast.net	(630) 379-2914	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Bryan	Schneider	aschneidy8@sbcglobal.net	(630) 862-1621	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Justin	Vanderee	justinvanderee@gmail.com	(630) 644-0984	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Dane	Bothun	danetbothun@gmail.com	(612) 919-0457	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Gabriel	Emerson	emersongabe@gmail.com	(270) 957-3194	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Paul	Burke	pburke1@ameritech.net	(630) 699-1894	Elder	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Gregory	De Jong	gkdejong@comcast.net	(630) 476-0007	Elder	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Deryck	Barson	deryck.barson@bethelopc.org	(630) 665-5577	Pastor	
Midwest - PMW	Iowa	Des Moines	Grace Reformed OPC	Doug	Macdonald	douglas.w.macdonald@gmail.com	(515) 943-1881	Deacon In-Training	
Midwest - PMW	Iowa	Pella	Hope Reformed OPC	John	Fikkert	john.fikkert@opc.org	(641) 651-0346	Minister	
Midwest - PMW	Missouri	Doniphan	Sovereign Grace Reformed OPC	Kent	Harding	kentwharding@gmail.com	(573) 996-4287	Pastor	
Midwest - PMW	Missouri	St. Charles	Christ OPC	Richard	Lammers	rlammersservices@gmail.com	(314) 517-6460	Deacon	
Midwest - PMW	Illinois	Wheaton	Bethel OPC	Chris	Sudlow	sudlow77@gmail.com	(630) 806-5901	Deacon	
n/a	Michigan	Grand Rapids	Seventh Reformed	Kenneth	Ganzevoort	kganzevoort@gmail.com	(616) 350-7040	Deacon	Non-denominational

OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
n/a	Minnesota	Minnetonka	Emmaus Road RCUS	Ian	Gilbert	gilbertij1@gmail.com	(248) 763-8785	Deacon	RCUS
n/a	Michigan	Wyoming	Bethany URC	Peter	Freswick	pfreswick@gmail.com	(616) 550-3260	Deacon In-Training	URC
n/a	Michigan	Wyoming	Bethany URC	Stephen	Majauskas	smajauskas@yahoo.com	(415) 328-8049	Deacon In-Training	URC
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Bellmawr	Immanuel OPC	Robert	Bangs	robbangs@hotmail.com	(609) 707-4291	Deacon	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Bridgeton	New Hope OPC	Richard	Duggan	richdugg@yahoo.com	(856) 986-7789	Deacon	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Hackettstown	Church of the Covenant OPC	Chris	Wagner	chris.wgnr2014@gmail.com	(908) 752-7344	Deacon	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Hackettstown	Church of the Covenant OPC	Ron	Pearce	rpearce@sprynet.com	(908) 328-3079	Pastor	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Ringoes	Calvary OPC	Daniel	Bausch	danixxbau@yahoo.com	(201) 874-6728	Deacon	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	New Jersey	Westfield	Grace OPC	Robert	Folkerts	rjf.fwf@gmail.com	(201) 337-0437	Deacon	
New Jersey (& Puerto Rico) - PNJ	Puerto Rico	Guayama	Sola Escritura OPC	Jose	Vazquez	joyto@tribuwp.com	(787) 473-9294	Deacon In-Training	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Maine	Bangor	Pilgrim OPC	Leonard	Dorman	lhorman1958@gmail.com	(207) 745-8037	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Maine	Portland	Second Parish OPC	Jason	MacLean	jmacle@aol.com	(207) 408-0876	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Maine	Portland	Second Parish OPC	Phillip	Smith	phillip.s.smith@gmail.com	(630) 379-9448	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Maine	Rockport	Lakeview OPC	Stephen	Tracey	stj_8kg@hotmail.com	(207) 542-7615	Pastor	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Massachusetts	North Andover	Merrimack Valley OPC	Dan	Filicicchia	dan_f@comcast.net	(603) 682-4752	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Massachusetts	North Andover	Merrimack Valley OPC	Ray	Pellerin	ray.pellerin@comcast.net	(603) 479-9394	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Massachusetts	West Barnstable	Cape Cod OPC	Jeffrey	Dodge	jeffraedodge@gmail.com	(508) 280-5143	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	Massachusetts	West Barnstable	Cape Cod OPC	Barry	Johnson	bdjohnson1923@gmail.com	(774) 238-2042	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New Hampshire	Manchester	Amoskeag OPC	Carl	Carlson	carl.carlson1@gmail.com	(603) 682-7649	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New Hampshire	Manchester	Amoskeag OPC	Daniel	Lascaze	dlascaze@comcast.net	(603) 296-5647	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New York	Amsterdam	Covenant OPC	Tom	Reynolds	TomAmsterdam46@yahoo.com	(518) 390-7733	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New York	Amsterdam	Covenant OPC	Mark	Rulison	markrulison@gmail.com	(518) 424-3099	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New York	Syracuse	Hope OPC	John	Mossotti	jmossotti@gmail.com	(315) 882-5457	Deacon	
New York & New England - PNYNE	New York	Syracuse	Hope OPC	Michael	Shingler	pastor@hopeopc.org	(570) 594-2670	Pastor	
Northern California & Nevada - PNCNV	California	Novato	Trinity OPC	Diego	Merino	merinod862@gmail.com	(415) 717-5604	Deacon	
Northern California & Nevada - PNCNV	California	Novato	Trinity OPC	Edgar ' Rene '	Tovar	renetovar121959@reagan.com	(415) 215-2141	Deacon	
Northern California & Nevada - PNCNV	California	San Jose	Covenant OPC	Miguel	Alvarado	malvaradosr@gmail.com	(669) 225-8858	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Idaho	Idaho Falls	New Geneva OPC	Stuart	McKim	mckim@lifetime.oregonstate.edu	(760) 975-2191	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Oregon	Corvallis	Westminster OPC	Eric	Searcy	eric@wpcorvallis.org	(541) 602-9698	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Oregon	Newberg	Trinity OPC	Ben	Kent	benkent.illustration@gmail.com	(714) 722-0819	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Oregon	Newberg	Trinity OPC	Nathan	Kent	nathanwkent@gmail.com	(503) 537-8082	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Oregon	Portland	First OPC	Braden	Anderton	BAnderton6693@gmail.com	(503) 869-2084	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Washington	Oak Harbor	Sovereign Grace OPC	Malcolm	Huston	mhuston09@gmail.com	(360) 720-6590	Deacon	
Northwest - PNW	Oregon	Medford	Trinity OPC	Phillip	Gettman	philstubs@gmail.com	(541) 840-3420	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Beavercreek	Redeemer OPC	Chris	Linhardt	chris.linhardt.oh@gmail.com	(937) 475-3476	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Cincinnati	Good Shepherd OPC	Mark	Kalnasy	mark.kalnasy@gmail.com	(614) 357-9487	Deacon In-Training	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Columbus	Grace OPC	Paul	Archer	archerpl54@yahoo.com	(614) 306-3727	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Columbus	Grace OPC	Bob	Keys	bobkeys50@hotmail.com	(614) 284-8630	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Columbus	Grace OPC	Andrew	Stafford	astafford7@gmail.com	(614) 216-7060	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Dayton	Redeemer OPC	Nathaniel	Curtis	nathaniel.a.curtis@me.com	(517) 294-8165	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Dayton	Redeemer OPC	Philip	Ritenour	plr1488@hotmail.com	(937) 768-9189	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Mentor	Lake OPC	Jeffrey	Fartro	jtfqts@aol.com	(440) 887-1644	Pastor	

OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Vandalia	Covenant OPC	Jim	Altensee	jalt58lfj@earthlink.net	(937) 479-0231	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Ohio	Vandalia	Covenant OPC	Tony	Beyer	beyerae@yahoo.com	(937) 902-1227	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Pennsylvania	Coraopolis	Immanuel OPC	Douglas	Smith	CoachDJSmith@gmail.com	(412) 855-9290	Deacon	
Ohio - POH	Pennsylvania	Grove City	Covenant OPC	Stephen	Jenkins	jenkinssp@gcc.edu	(724) 458-2102	Elder	
Ohio - POH	Pennsylvania	Sewickley	Grace OPC	Geoffrey	Willour	glwillour@gmail.com	(440) 264-3805	Pastor	
Ohio - POH	West Virginia	Morgantown	Reformation OPC	Zachary	Hillegas	zacharyhillegas@gmail.com	(304) 276-3972	Deacon In-Training	
Ohio - POH	West Virginia	Morgantown	Reformation OPC	Robert	Niichel	rjniichel@gmail.com	(812) 320-0233	Deacon In-Training	
Ohio - POH	West Virginia	Morgantown	Reformation OPC	Daniel	Powell	djpowell2cpa@gmail.com	(304) 685-0176	Deacon In-Training	
Ohio - POH	West Virginia	Morgantown	Reformation OPC	Dylan	Sheldon	dylandsheldon@gmail.com	(304) 629-3624	Deacon In-Training	
Philadelphia - PPH	Delaware	Wilmington	Emmanuel OPC	John	Stahl	jhswe56@gmail.com	(302) 220-3782	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Downingtown	Christ OPC	Robert	Kanowicz	Robert.kanowicz@outlook.com	(484) 846-5157	Deacon In-Training	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Charles	Martel	alcharmartel@aol.com	(267) 222-2513	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Carlos	Medina	cm Medina0106@yahoo.com	(215) 921-1040	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	David	Porter	daporter2@yahoo.com	(215) 659-1975	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Tim	Raybould	cams.spotter.0w@icloud.com	(302) 494-9628	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Edward	Schnitzel	eschnitzel@gmail.com	(267) 210-4159	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Gabriel	Walkup	gmwalkup@mix.wvu.edu	(304) 368-8241	Deacon	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Duane	Williams	duanemwilliams@hotmail.com	(610) 724-1607	Deacon In-Training	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	David	Nakhla	david.p.nakhla@gmail.com	(562) 760-7606	Elder	
Philadelphia - PPH	Pennsylvania	Glenside	Calvary OPC	Steve	McDaniel	stevemcdaniel1@gmail.com	(609) 680-5450	Pastor	
South - PSO	Alabama	Madison	Providence OPC	Mark	Palmer	mrpalmer@mchsi.com	(256) 541-0832	Deacon	
South - PSO	Florida	Bradenton	Providence OPC	Tyler	Clites	tlclites@gmail.com	(813) 716-6862	Deacon	
South - PSO	Florida	Orlando	Lake Sherwood OPC	Christopher	Barnard	chrisbarnard01@gmail.com	(850) 567-7486	Deacon	
South - PSO	Florida	Pensacola	Covenant OPC	Scott	Barr	scottdbarr@yahoo.com	(334) 304-0737	Deacon In-Training	
Southeast - PSE	Georgia	Atlanta	Redeemer OPC	Huell	McBane	huellmcbane@gmail.com	(470) 207-2876	Deacon In-Training	
Southeast - PSE	Georgia	Buford	Covenant OPC	Bruce	McCallum	bruce@mccallum-group.com	(678) 296-7145	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	Georgia	Marietta	Christ OPC	Aaron	Johnson	aaron.johnson.j@gmail.com	(423) 432-9980	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	Georgia	Royston	Heritage OPC	Timothy	Davis	timothydavis1990@gmail.com	(706) 308-8963	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	Georgia	Royston	Heritage OPC	Dan	Phillips	phillips.dan@protonmail.com	(678) 628-5961	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	Kentucky	Neon	Neon Reformed OPC	Seth	Long	seth.long@homesinc.work	(606) 634-2426	Elder	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Gastonia	Reformation OPC	Derek	Jarstfer	youngstonewall@gmail.com	(704) 425-7283	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Gastonia	Reformation OPC	Andy	Speder	aspeder@me.com	(608) 208-5468	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Gastonia	Reformation OPC	Spencer	Grigg	sgrigg@wsifitness.com	(704) 578-1073	Elder	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Gastonia	Reformation OPC	Kelvin	Monteith	kelvinmonteith@gmail.com	(276) 608-0822	Elder	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Marion	Landis OPC	Michael	Cloy	opc mikecloy@gmail.com	(803) 673-4645	Elder	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Matthews	Resurrection OPC	Luke	Fawcett	fawcett.luke@gmail.com	(540) 908-7531	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Matthews	Resurrection OPC	Nathan	Trice	T.Nathan.Trice@gmail.com	(704) 408-7314	Pastor	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Matthews	Resurrection OPC	Nathan	Brinkerhoff	brinkerhoff.nathan@gmail.com	(828) 539-1327	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	New Bern	Covenant OPC	Scott	Cormier	scottcormierot@hotmail.com	(252) 622-7424	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Pilgrim OPC	William	Cox	gallamine@gmail.com	(919) 272-4315	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Pilgrim OPC	Grant	Mericle	grant.mericle@gmail.com	(919) 308-2690	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Arthur	Allen	doublea62@gmail.com	(919) 801-7313	Deacon	

OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Leo	Barclay	lbarclay@shilohopc.org	(704) 942-8876	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Brandon	Gershman	brandon.gershman@gmail.com	(919) 714-1428	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Tim	Hopper	tdhopper@gmail.com	(919) 473-3145	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	McRay	Simmons	mcray.simmons@shilohopc.org	(919) 624-2407	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Peter	Tola	mrpete8652@gmail.com	(919) 578-4893	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	North Carolina	Raleigh	Shiloh OPC	Andrew	Lynam	amlynam3@gmail.com	(252) 230-6673	Deacon In-Training	
Southeast - PSE	Tennessee	Maryville	Sandy Springs OPC	Brian	Ganzevoort	bganzevoort@gmail.com	(865) 250-2947	Deacon In-Training	
Southeast - PSE	Virginia	Virginia Beach	Reformation OPC	Bob	Tidwell	tidwellkvt@juno.com	(757) 436-1898	Deacon	
Southeast - PSE	Virginia	Virginia Beach	Reformation OPC	Cameron	Cath	cameronscath@gmail.com	(757) 630-7670	Deacon In-Training	
Southern California - PSC	Arizona	Phoenix	Calvin OPC	Alexander	Patocs	alexander+regfox@patocspack.com	(623) 687-4868	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	Arizona	Phoenix	Calvin OPC	Andrew	Holmes	andrew.d.holmes100@gmail.com	(480) 772-9562	Deacon In-Training	
Southern California - PSC	Arizona	Tucson	Covenant OPC	Andrew	Buss	andrew.buss@yahoo.com	(574) 354-1077	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	Arizona	Tucson	Covenant OPC	Bill	Rozier	billrozierconsulting@cox.net	(520) 955-2532	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Anaheim	Theophilus OPC	Choonsik	Chae	chaega72@gmail.com	(714) 309-0393	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Anaheim	Theophilus OPC	Yong	Choi	yscucb@gmail.com	(619) 954-2771	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Anaheim	Theophilus OPC	Richard	Chung	rkychung@gmail.com	(650) 490-6087	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Anaheim	Theophilus OPC	Andrew	Yoon	akyoon21@gmail.com	(714) 356-7050	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Anaheim	Theophilus OPC	Yousik	Hong	yousikhong@yahoo.com	(714) 308-6477	Pastor	
Southern California - PSC	California	Chula Vista	Bayview OPC	Geno	Altieri	christianitythetruth@yahoo.com	(619) 313-7455	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Costa Mesa	Grace OPC	Kenton	McClelland	kenton.mcclelland@nafinc.com	(714) 421-3170	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Costa Mesa	Grace OPC	Andrew	Bunker	abunker85@gmail.com	(206) 787-0321	Deacon In-Training	
Southern California - PSC	California	Goleta	El Camino OPC	Sam	Phillips	samjphillips65@yahoo.com	(302) 272-2036	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Redlands	Sovereign Grace OPC	Tim	Lee	timosar@gmail.com	(909) 583-3512	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	Zachary	Chione	zachchione@gmail.com	(760) 331-7491	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	Les	Koehn	LesKoehn@cox.net	(760) 721-8474	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	Bryan	Moore	bryanergy@gmail.com	(760) 613-1083	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	John	Rigo	altrdair@netscape.net	(760) 594-1125	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	Craig	Troxel	actrox@att.net	(630) 234-9499	Pastor	
Southern California - PSC	California	Temecula	Providence OPC	Adam	Barret	barret.adam@gmail.com	(951) 694-2667	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Temecula	Providence OPC	Garrett	Newman	himynamesgarrettnewman@gmail.com	(951) 760-8269	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	Temecula	Providence OPC	Ryan	Golgosky	support@180sites.com	(951) 252-5302	Deacon In-Training	
Southern California - PSC	California	Torrance	Branch of Hope OPC	Albert	Miranda	albert.miranda1989@gmail.com	(562) 508-3140	Deacon	
Southern California - PSC	California	San Marcos	Harvest OPC	Eric	Watkins	watkinsopc1@earthlink.net	(904) 803-2287	Pastor	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Amarillo	Christ Covenant OPC	Mel	Huebner	melannh@sbcglobal.net	(806) 674-0206	Deacon	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Amarillo	Christ Covenant OPC	Thomas	Wood	thomas.matthew.wood@outlook.com	(806) 677-3054	Deacon In-Training	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Bedford	Mid Cities OPC	John	West	johngwest@icloud.com	(817) 372-8838	Deacon	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Bedford	Mid Cities OPC	Victor	Loredo	vbloreedo@gmail.com	(651) 323-8397	Deacon In-Training	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Bedford	Mid Cities OPC	Albert	Perez	alouper88@yahoo.com	(817) 880-3013	Deacon In-Training	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Bedford	Mid Cities OPC	Steven	Polino	steven.polino@polinolaw.com	(817) 992-6359	Deacon In-Training	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Fort Worth	Covenant OPC	Roy	Wickham	rhotex5@gmail.com	(817) 301-8584	Deacon	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Garland	Faith OPC	Paul	Mattoon	paulmattoon@yahoo.com	(214) 837-6811	Deacon	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Pflugerville	Providence OPC	Tom	Easterday	tomeasterday@gmail.com	(949) 339-9907	Deacon	

OPC National Diaconal Summit Attendees by Presbytery

OPC Presbytery	Church State	Church City	Church Name	First Name	Last Name	Email	Phone Number	Church Office	Other Denomination
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Tyler	Tyler OPC	John	Johnson	jhjopc@suddenlink.net	(903) 372-7988	Pastor	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Waco	Trinity OPC	Caleb	Little	jcaleblittle@gmail.com	(219) 916-1659	Deacon	
Southwest - PSW	Texas	Waco	Trinity OPC	Alex	Ko	alex.hyun.ko@gmail.com	(469) 261-3919	Deacon In-Training	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Cedar Grove	Calvary OPC	Vince	Morano	kb9zot@gmail.com	(414) 232-8302	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Cedar Grove	Calvary OPC	Brett	Daane	brettdaane@gmail.com	(262) 339-7113	Deacon In-Training	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Cedar Grove	Calvary OPC	David	Cornette	pastordavid@calvarychurchcg.com	(920) 889-3834	Pastor	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Green Bay	New Hope OPC	Joshua	Agen	jaagen@hotmail.com	(734) 645-4482	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Green Bay	New Hope OPC	Richard	Cohler	rcohler1@gmail.com	(920) 595-1946	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Green Bay	New Hope OPC	Dave	Schoeneweiss	dutch61523@gmail.com	(920) 366-8509	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Green Bay	New Hope OPC	Jeffrey	Shaw	jeffandcarmi@juno.com	(920) 660-5389	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Green Bay	New Hope OPC	Mike	Spronk	mike.spronk50@gmail.com	(920) 621-3793	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Hammond	Covenant OPC	Justin	Bryan	jbryn13@gmail.com	(863) 370-2747	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Neenah	Apple Valley OPC	Josh	Johnston	inbjohnston@icloud.com	(920) 371-1724	Deacon In-Training	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	New Berlin	Covenant OPC	Gregory	Holland	gpholland@wi.rr.com	(414) 464-8885	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	New Berlin	Covenant OPC	Robert	Langnes	rlangnes@sbcglobal.net	(414) 412-8875	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	New Berlin	Covenant OPC	Kerry	Knoblock	thebestdealever57@gmail.com	(414) 520-1973	Deacon In-Training	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Oshkosh	Resurrection OPC	Richard	Basilieri	raabaz@yahoo.com	(920) 410-0999	Deacon	
Wisconsin & Minnesota - PWM	Wisconsin	Oshkosh	Resurrection OPC	Michael	Marshall	luke6_31@hotmail.com	(920) 229-4722	Deacon	



OPC Committee on Diaconal Ministries Roster

MEMBERSHIP

Class of 2022

Rick Dickinson
Mike Di Peppino
John Voss, Jr.

Class of 2023

Seth Long
Chris Sudlow
Nathan Trice

Class of 2024

Chris Cashen
Ron de Ru
Tim Hopper

OFFICERS

President: Nathan Trice
Vice President: Seth Long
Secretary: Chris Cashen
Treasurer: John Voss, Jr.

SUBCOMMITTEES

Administration & Finance Subcommittee (AFS)

Chris Sudlow (Chairman)
Seth Long
John Voss, Jr.

Aid Request Subcommittee (ARS)

Seth Long (Chairman)
Ron de Ru
Mike Di Peppino
John Voss, Jr.

Disaster Response Subcommittee (DRS)

John Voss, Jr. (Chairman)
Ron de Ru
Rick Dickinson
Seth Long

Diaconal Training Subcommittee (DTS)

Nathan Trice (Chairman)
Chris Cashen
Tim Hopper
Chris Sudlow

Missionary Deacon Subcommittee (MDS)

Chris Cashen (Chairman)
Ron de Ru
Nathan Trice

Refugee Ministry Subcommittee (RMS)

Chris Cashen (Chairman)
Rick Dickinson
Mike Di Peppino
John Voss, Jr.

STAFF

Administrator: David Nakhla
Communications Coordinator: Trish Duggan
Administrative Assistant: Sarah Klazinga
CDM Intern: Hannah White



Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM) Contact Information 2022

Name	Position	Email	Cell Phone	Presbytery	Church
Nathan Trice	President	trice.1@opc.org	(704) 408-7314	PSE	Matthews OPC Matthews, NC
Seth Long	Vice President	seth.long@homesinc.work	(606) 634-2426	PSE	Neon OPC Neon, KY
John Voss, Jr.	Treasurer	keepsake179@gmail.com	(708) 302-1479	PMW	Covenant OPC Orland Park, IL
Chris Cashen	Secretary	cbcashen@gmail.com	(757) 717-0040	PMA	Trinity Reformed OPC Lanham, MD
Ron de Ru	CDM Member	ron@northwestscientific.com	(206) 423-9009	PNW	Sovereign Grace OPC Oak Harbor, WA
Rick Dickinson	CDM Member	zyx.rmd@gmail.com	(207) 249-9633	PNYNE	Pilgrim OPC Bangor, ME
Mike Di Peppino	CDM Member	mdipeppino@logisticre.com	(714) 318-9684	PSC	Westminster OPC Westminster, CA
Tim Hopper	CDM Member	tdhopper@gmail.com	(434) 906-5120	PSE	Shiloh OPC Raleigh, NC
Chris Sudlow	CDM Member	sudlow77@gmail.com	(630) 806-5901	PMW	Bethel OPC Wheaton, IL
David Nakhla	Administrator	david.nakhla@opc.org	(562) 760-7606	PPH	Calvary OPC Glenside, PA
Trish Duggan	Communications Coordinator	trish.duggan@opc.org	(856) 952-8500	PNJ	New Hope OPC Bridgeton, NJ



Presbytery Diaconal Committee (PDC) Chairmen Contact Info

Presbytery	Name	Email	Cell Phone	Church
Central Pennsylvania	Rev. Josh McKamy	mckamy.1@opc.org	(717) 491-8314	Redeemer OPC Danville, PA
Connecticut and S. New York	Rev. Lloyd Sterrett	sterrettlloyd@yahoo.com	(215) 964-0553	OPC of Franklin Square Franklin Square, NY
Dakotas	Elder Scott Allen	scottallen1967@msn.com	(303) 349-4958	Emmanuel OPC Castle Rock, CO
Michigan and Ontario	Deacon Doug Vos	doug.vos@gmail.com	(313) 687-3989	Oakland Hills OPC Farmington Hills, MI
Mid-Atlantic	Rev. Steve Brown	sbrown@gracevienna.org	(717) 917-9766	Grace OPC Vienna, VA
Midwest	Deacon Pete Onnink	peteopc@hotmail.com	(920) 207-3795	Covenant OPC Orland Park, IL
New Jersey	Deacon Chris Wagner	chris.wgnr2014@gmail.com	(908) 752-7344	Church of the Covenant Hackettstown, NJ
New York and New England	Rev. Michael Shingler	hopeopc1@gmail.com	(570) 594-2670	Hope OPC Syracuse, NY
N. California and Nevada	Elder Adam Gustavson	adam.insuranceca@gmail.com	(951) 428-9307	Mt. Rose Reformed OPC Reno, NV
Northwest	Deacon Stuart McKim	mckim@lifetime.oregonstate.edu	(208) 557-3557	New Geneva OPC Idaho Falls, ID
Ohio	Deacon Bob Keys	bobkeys50@hotmail.com	(614) 284-8630	Grace OPC Columbus, OH
Philadelphia	Deacon Dave Askey	daskey00@gmail.com	(215) 385-4131	Trinity OPC Hatboro, PA
South	Deacon Mark Cerasale	mwcerasa@gmail.com	(407) 484-8563	Reformation OPC Oviedo, FL
Southern California	Elder Andy Weld	awweld@hotmail.com	(619) 540-3777	Bonita OPC Bonita, CA
Southeast	Deacon Tim Hopper	tdhopper@gmail.com	(434) 906-5120	Shiloh OPC Raleigh, NC
Southwest	Rev. Joe Troutman	troutman.joseph@gmail.com	(817) 488-1133	Mid Cities OPC Bedford, TX
Wisconsin & Minnesota	Rev. David Cornette	pastordavid@calvarychurchcg.com	(920) 889-3834	Calvary OPC Cedar Grove, WI



THE COMMITTEE ON DIACONAL MINISTRIES
OF THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Proposed Mandate
for the Work of the Presbytery Diaconal Committee (PDC)**

1. Regarding Local Congregations

- a. Stand ready to **assist local diaconates** with matters that exceed their local resources.
- b. Stand ready to **assist** congregations and mission works that have **no local deacons**.
- c. Promote, encourage and coordinate **diaconal work** within the Presbytery.
- d. Communicate and promote **diaconal ministry opportunities** within the Presbytery.
- e. **Educate** and encourage the Presbytery to carry out diaconal responsibilities in response to various needs.

2. Regarding the CDM

- a. Promote the **work of the CDM** within the Presbytery.
- b. Serves as the Presbytery's **liaison** between the CDM and the churches of the Presbytery in evaluating local requests for aid that the Presbytery is unable to provide for, and referring these to the CDM.

3. Regarding Disaster Relief

- a. Promote the work of **disaster relief** among the churches of the Presbytery, in coordination with the CDM, other OPC presbyteries, and the broader church in general.

4. Regarding Ministers

- a. Inquire and act to ensure that every **retired minister** of the Presbytery, and every minister's widow and his dependent family, have adequate resources to meet their normal needs.
- b. Seek to discover cases of **pastors in need**, and provide aid as circumstances warrant.

5. Regarding Anticipating Needs

- a. Assess needs by **conducting surveys** of the financial needs of the churches of the Presbytery.
- b. Bring to the Presbytery's attention the work of other **Christian relief agencies**.

6. Regarding Diaconal Funds

- a. **Raise funds** from the churches of the Presbytery to meet particular needs that come to the attention of the PDC.
- b. **Recommend** an annual per capita amount that each church of the Presbytery should contribute to the PDC.
- c. Requests funds from the CDM as needed.

7. Regarding Deacons of the Presbytery

- a. Maintain a **roll of active deacons** of the Presbytery, and make it available to the Presbytery and the CDM.
- b. **Promote communication between** the local deacon boards.



THE COMMITTEE ON DIACONAL MINISTRIES
OF THE ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

**Procedure for Requesting Diaconal Assistance
for Individuals in Need in the OPC**

Overview:

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM) is privileged to be able to respond to appeals for diaconal assistance for individuals in need within the OPC, using funds entrusted to it through the faithful giving of individuals and churches.

In striving to follow a Presbyterian structure within the diaconate, the CDM requires that appeals for aid for individuals be presented to it only after having first been considered at the local and regional levels of the church.

Procedure:

Requests must be submitted using the Form for Requesting Diaconal Assistance for Individuals in Need Within the OPC ("Request Form").

The Request Form can be printed and mailed in, or completed online and submitted electronically.

The Request Form must be submitted by a Presbytery or a Presbytery Diaconal Committee (PDC).

The CDM receives the completed Request Form with the expectation that the Presbytery or PDC has:

1. Received the request from a session or deacon board that has determined that the need cannot be fully met within the local congregation.
2. Examined the request and ascertained the legitimacy and extent of the need.
3. Determined that the need cannot be fully met within the Presbytery.
4. Participated in responding partially toward the need, if at all possible.

The Request Form should be accompanied by financial documentation that defines the need and supports the request.

The Request Form should be accompanied by a report of the Presbytery's or PDC's investigative work, as well as their conclusions and advice to the CDM in this matter.

The completed Request Form is received by the CDM Administrator, who will forward it to the appropriate subcommittee. If the subcommittee requires further information, the Administrator will contact the requestor for more details.

The CDM will extend diaconal assistance with the understanding that the Presbytery or PDC that made the request will provide oversight and continuing care to individuals who receive assistance from the CDM.

The Request Form:

The CDM does not intend for this Request Form to be a roadblock, but rather to ensure that we receive all pertinent information so as to be able to come to a swift decision.

All answers are confidential to the CDM.

Some answers may require additional follow-up by the CDM.

You can complete the Request Form online and submit it electronically, or print it out and mail in as directed.



Form for Requesting Diaconal Assistance for an Individual in Need Within the OPC

Committee on Diaconal Ministries
of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church

The Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM) makes this form available to Presbyteries or Presbytery Diaconal Committees (PDC) that wish to request financial assistance for individuals in the OPC whose need exceeds the capacity of the local church and presbytery. Please fill it out as completely as possible. The CDM does not intend for this to be a roadblock, but rather to ensure that we receive all pertinent information so as to be able to come to a swift decision. All answers are confidential to the CDM. Some answers may require additional follow-up by the CDM. Please print out this form and send it by mail to David Nakhla as per below, or visit OPCCDM.org to complete the form online.

1. Name and address of the church/presbytery/committee requesting financial assistance.

2. Name and address of the person/family that needs assistance, and the OP church with which they are affiliated.

3. What is the exact amount of financial assistance you are requesting from the Committee on Diaconal Ministries?

\$ _____

4. Usually a specific request for aid is the result of a larger situation. Please provide the history, nature, and extent (i.e., one-time or long-term assistance) of the need, including any relevant extenuating circumstances.

5. Have there been any attempts and/or success in negotiating outstanding bills and/or in agreeing upon payment plans?

Form for Requesting Diaconal Assistance for an Individual in Need Within the OPC (cont.)

6. Is this need something that could be covered by insurance? Has this option been explored? If a claim has been denied, has it been followed up with an appeal?

7. What has the individual, family, and extended family done to address this need?

8. Please describe any government assistance sought in addressing this need, and the result.

9. What counsel has the local diaconate provided, and how have they been able to respond financially to this need?

10. What interaction has the presbytery diaconal committee had with the local diaconate and/or session in evaluating this request?

11. What counsel has the presbytery diaconal committee provided, and how have they been able to respond financially to this need?

Form for Requesting Diaconal Assistance for an Individual in Need Within the OPC (cont.)

12. If applicable, have steps been taken to prevent this need from recurring?

13. Is there any other pertinent information that the CDM should know before considering this request?

14. Please list any financial reports, budgets, lists of assets, etc., that could help define the need and support this request, and include them as an attachment to this form.

Name of person completing this form

Your position

Signature

Date Submitted

Mail this completed form to:

David Nakhla, CDM Administrator
The Orthodox Presbyterian Church
607 Easton Road, Bldg. E
Willow Grove, PA 19090
Cell 562-760-7606
Email: David.Nakhla@opc.org

Response of the Committee on Diaconal Ministries:

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON DIACONAL MINISTRIES

SYNOPSIS

- I. PROFILE
- II. MINISTRIES
 - A. MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED WITHIN THE OPC
 - B. MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED INTERNATIONALLY
 - C. MINISTRY TO THOSE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS
 - D. MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH LOCAL DEACONS
 - E. MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH MISSIONARY DEACONS
 - F. MINISTRY TO REFUGEES
 - G. MINISTRY THROUGH THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS COORDINATOR
- III. CDM ADMINISTRATION
- IV. RECOMMENDATIONS
- V. ELECTIONS
- VI. BUDGET
- VII. FINANCIALS
- VIII. ADDENDUM

*“O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?
You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.”
Psalm 89:8-9 ESV*

Living through the turmoil caused by the COVID-19 pandemic can be compared to living in a raging sea. Regulations, restrictions, quarantines, mask mandates, vaccine mandates, social distancing, loved ones terribly sick, loved ones dying. At times it looks like the waves will crush all those in its path. In the midst of such temporal turmoil, how good it is to know and be known by the “LORD God of hosts”, that one that is mighty and rules over the raging seas of life. For he can still them. Yes, God has been faithful to still the raging seas. Even the “new normal” is not proving to last forever.

A silver-lining to living through tumultuous times is that we are forced to cling fast to that One who can take us safely through the storms of life. How much we grow in our love for a Savior who knows our weakness and our frailty; that One who can sympathize with our suffering.

It seems that it is in seasons of trial and grief that we experience a renewed appreciation for the mercy and compassion of Christ as is tangibly portrayed in the diaconal ministry of the church. No one loves the deacons as much as those who have received their love and service. May it be that the Lord uses this difficult season in our world and in the church to enable us to better sense his nearness to us, that we might draw closer to him.

SUMMARY OF THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE IN 2021

The work of the Committee on Diaconal Ministries (CDM) in 2021 can be summarized in the following list of activities:

- MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED WITHIN THE OPC
- Providing \$21,240 to a presbytery and local congregation in their care for one family for a 12th year.
- Standing ready to partner with presbyteries in the event significant needs arise within OP churches.

MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED INTERNATIONALLY

- Providing \$40,800 for the diaconal ministry of five OP foreign mission fields.
- Providing \$45,500 toward the operational costs of Akisyon Yesu Presbyterian Clinic in Uganda as they serve more than 12,000 patients.
- Concluding 24 months of a ministry of mercy to a missionary family unexpectedly returning home.
- Networking with the diaconal committees of sister churches within North America via NAPARC and worldwide via the Diaconal Committee of the ICRC.
- Providing a ministry of mercy to like-minded churches overseas in their time of trial.
- Ministering to churches in India, Kenya, and Haiti, suffering from economic pressures caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

MINISTRY TO THOSE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

- Standing ready to mobilize a disaster response effort in the event that the OPC is directly impacted by a major disaster.
- Providing the Presbytery of Philadelphia with \$4,500 to purchase a trailer to contain disaster response equipment.
- Recruiting those who would be willing to volunteer for service in disaster response.
- Communicating disaster response opportunities and reports via websites, Facebook, the *S.T.O.R.M. Report*, *The Mercy Minute*, *New Horizons* and *The D.R.I.P.*

MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH LOCAL DEACONS

- Producing and delivering monthly episodes of The Reformed Deacon podcast, launched November 1.
- Preparing for the National Diaconal Summit IV, to be held June 2-4, 2022.
- Hosting “Continuing the Conversation”, the 90-minute Zoom event for deacons in June.
- Connecting deacons via the new “Deacon Check-In” ministry.
- Serving as a resource to Presbytery Diaconal Committees in their labors.
- Facilitating interaction between deacons on the private OPC Deacons Facebook page.
- Sharing diaconal ministries and opportunities via *The Mercy Minute* quarterly newsletter.
- Developing the Ministry of Mercy training material.

MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH MISSIONARY DEACONS

- Providing \$24,000 support for missionary deacon Mark Van Essendelft in Uganda.
- Visiting Mr. Van Essendelft on the field and encouraging him in his labors.

MINISTRY TO REFUGEES

- Surveying the church on past or current ministry to refugees in OP churches.
- Producing a set of four articles intended to advise and stimulate ministry to refugees.
- Providing \$11,600 for refugee ministry in Greece carried out by the Greek Evangelical Church.
- Supplying \$5,000 for ministry to refugees in South Sudan, following an in-person visit.
- Providing \$27,000 for an evangelist/deacon to minister in Word and deed to refugees in Clarkston, GA.

MINISTRY THROUGH THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS COORDINATOR

- Supporting, promoting, and encouraging short-term missions activities through the STMC.

I. PROFILE

As an agency of the General Assembly, the CDM is entrusted with the responsibility of promoting the diaconal ministries of the OPC in those areas that are beyond the province and/or capacity of the local or regional diaconates. Currently, the CDM consists of three ministers, two ruling elders, and four deacons.

The current members of the CDM are:

The Rev. T. Nathan Trice	(Minister, Matthews, NC, PSE)	–	President
Mr. Seth B. Long	(Ruling Elder, Neon, KY, PSE)	–	Vice-President
The Rev. Christopher B. Cashen	(Minister, Lanham, MD, PMA)	–	Secretary
Mr. John J. Voss, Jr.	(Deacon, Orland Park, IL, PMW)	–	Treasurer
Mr. Ronald E. de Ru	(Deacon, Oak Harbor, WA, PNW)		
Mr. Timothy D. Hopper	(Deacon, Raleigh (Shiloh), NC, PSE)		
The Rev. Richard M. Dickinson	(Retired-Minister, Winterport, ME, PNYNE)		
Mr. Christopher A. Sudlow	(Deacon, Wheaton, IL, PMW)		
Mr. Michael Di Peppino	(Ruling Elder, Westminster, CA, PSC)		

The CDM is blessed with experienced men. Its nine members represent over two hundred years of ordained service and come from six different presbyteries. Each member of the committee has exhibited a zeal and interest in the ministry of mercy toward saints and strangers that is carried out in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church through the care and gifts of deacons.

Mr. David P. Nakhla (Ruling Elder, Glenside, PA, PPH) serves as Administrator of the CDM.

CDM MEETINGS

The CDM meets two times per year: once in the spring and once in the fall. The fall meeting is typically the first meeting after which new elections to the committee are made at General Assembly, so the election of officers and subcommittees and other annual resolutions take place at this meeting.

Due to the pandemic, the CDM met via Zoom Video Conferencing on April 22-23, 2021. The CDM rejoiced in the opportunity to meet in person for its fall meeting, held October 7-8, 2021, at the OPC Administrative Offices in Willow Grove, PA.

It has become the practice of the CDM to meet annually with representatives of the Committee on Foreign Missions (CFM) to discuss matters pertaining to areas of ministry that overlap between the two committees. In 2021, this meeting occurred via Zoom Video Conferencing on September 30th. The discussions centered around the work being performed by the CDM-supported facilities engineer/missionary deacon Mark Van Essendelft in Uganda, the use of diaconal funds on various mission fields, and what the CFM anticipates requesting of the CDM in 2022. This meeting, like others in the past, proved fruitful toward aligning the work of these two committees. The executive committee of the CDM and its administrator served to represent the CDM.

THE ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCE SUBCOMMITTEE

Much of the work of the CDM is delegated to subcommittees. The Administration and Finance Subcommittee (AFS) serves the CDM by overseeing and evaluating the work of the CDM employees, considering changes to compensation, proposing budgets, reviewing financials, and other related tasks.

DESIGNATED GIVING

In 2021, the CDM adopted a recommendation from the AFS to give the church more ability to designate gifts to the various diaconal ministries in which the CDM is already engaged. This ability to designate was already possible for such ministries as disaster response, refugee relief, and the COVID-19 pandemic. The CDM determined to increase the list of designations to include the persecuted church, medical missions and special relief – USA. The rationale was that the CDM is already involved in these specific ministries each year, yet many in the churches may not know this. There may be those in the church who, having a desire to support such ministries while not aware of the complete suite of ministries of the CDM, may feel the need to send their diaconal gifts to other places outside the OPC. This change gives OPC members and churches the opportunity to designate their gifts accordingly. The policies governing how the CDM utilizes surplus disaster response funds (see further in this report) will apply to these funds as well.

The administrative work of the CDM is centralized at the Administrative Offices of the OPC in Willow Grove, PA. Through the course of the year, the CDM Administrator receives and sends out all the correspondence for the committee, prepares the meeting agendas, and prepares the CDM's report to the General Assembly. Additionally, he collates the financial reports of the CDM, utilizing the financial structures put in place by the Committee on Coordination. Since 2006, the CDM's financials have been included in the annual independent accountant's review of the combined financial statements of the program committees of the OPC and are always available for review.

ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE

The work of the CDM Administrator is augmented by the help of two assistants. Mrs. Trish Duggan has been serving admirably as the Communications Coordinator, whose focus is maintaining all the platforms by which the work is communicated, including social media, websites, etc. She works ~25-30 hours per week. Mrs. Sarah Klazinga serves the CDM well as the part-time Administrative Assistant. She works ~10 hours per week.

FINANCIAL MATTERS

As was reported in this report last year, the CDM, after many years of carrying a large balance, suddenly saw that balance plunge corresponding to the CDM's involvement in significant ventures on multiple fronts. The CDM took some significant corrective measures, also reported. Besides cutting back on the volume of ministries in which it was involved, the CDM also recommend the 87th General Assembly increase the per-capita giving to the CDM from \$25 per communicant member (which it had been for almost 20 years) to \$30 per communicant in order to support the growing number of ministries of the CDM. This increase was approved by the 87th General Assembly.

The CDM is thankful to report that its balance has leveled off to a comfortable level. It also rejoices and gives thanks to the Lord and His church for the significant increase in giving to the CDM. 2021 saw a 17% increase in giving to the CDM's General Fund over the previous year. This surely enables the CDM to press forward in the work to which it has been called. As of the writing of this report, the giving in 2022 is tracking at 24% ahead of 2021 and 60% ahead of the average giving of the previous 5 years. God is good.

II. MINISTRIES

A. MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED WITHIN THE OPC

The CDM is privileged to be able to respond to appeals for aid for individuals in need within the OPC using funds entrusted to it through the faithful giving of churches and individuals.

In striving to follow a Presbyterian structure:

- The CDM requires that appeals for individual aid first be presented at the local level to a board of deacons.
- If the need cannot be met locally, it may be presented at the regional level to the Presbytery Diaconal Committee (PDC). (Some needs that are regional in nature might originate at the regional level.)
- If the presbytery finds that it cannot meet the need, it may present it at the denominational level to the CDM.

This process ensures that, by the time the need reaches the CDM, the local and regional bodies have had ample opportunity to examine the need, participate in the need as able, and choose to appeal to the CDM for the balance remaining. It also makes them better prepared to provide local oversight of the situation if aid is granted by the CDM.

The procedure and form for requesting aid for an individual in need can be found on this webpage: opccdm.org/resources/.

THE AID REQUEST SUBCOMMITTEE

The Aid Request Subcommittee (ARS) serves to receive and evaluate requests for financial help and prepare recommendations for the CDM to consider. This enables the CDM to be more timely and thorough in its response to such requests.

CONTINUING SERVICE TO A FAMILY IN NEED

In 2021, the CDM continued to partner with an OPC presbytery in providing monthly financial assistance to a family who, due to a violent crime committed against them which rendered the husband permanently impaired, found themselves relying heavily on the church to meet their daily needs. The presbytery diaconal committee, working closely with the local deacons, continues to provide diligent oversight of the situation. This enables the CDM to participate with confidence that good accountability and care is in place locally. This relationship began in 2011. The CDM provided, \$21,240, the amount the presbytery requested for this family in 2021.

DIACONAL CARE FOR NON-RETIRED MINISTERS

In 2021 with the Committee on Ministerial Care taking over the responsibility of responding to requests from Presbytery Diaconal Committees for assistance for non-retired ministers, the CDM again provided \$25,000 towards those diaconal needs, and anticipates participating in a similar fashion each year.

B. MINISTRY TO THOSE IN NEED INTERNATIONALLY

The unity and universality of the Church are compelling reasons for diaconal assistance to be extended to needy brothers and sisters around the world, primarily to those within the OPC, but also to those with whom the OPC has ecclesiastical fellowship, and to others, as the CDM has opportunity and resources to meet such needs.

A fine way for the CDM to do this is to partner with the CFM in supplying the OPC's foreign fields with diaconal funds so that they might have the means to minister mercy in the course of their labors. It does not happen often, but OPC-affiliated missionaries may also present the CDM with diaconal needs that they face in their labors. And, on occasion, sister denominations in foreign lands may also present to the CDM opportunities to partner in ministries of mercy.

TYPES OF INTERNATIONAL REQUESTS

Whatever the source of the requests, the CDM classifies requests in one of three ways: "recurring" requests, "special" requests, or "emergency" requests:

- Recurring requests are defined as those that the requesting party has made previously and is now once again requesting. The typical frequency for a recurring request is annually.
- Special requests are defined as those that arise out of a new need or opportunity that the Lord places before a particular part of His church. Special requests are typically one-time requests, but may subsequently become a recurring request if appropriate.
- An emergency request is defined as a need that arises suddenly in the Lord's providence and warrants immediate attention.

The process by which these international requests may come to the CDM is contained in Section VI.B of the CDM Manual (rev15b). Through this process, the CDM was thankful to be able to grant the full amounts requested through the CFM to the following five OP foreign mission fields in 2021:

<u>Field</u>	2021 <u>Actual</u>	2022 <u>Budget</u>	2023 <u>Budget</u>	Past 10 Yrs. <u>Actual</u> (Total)
Eritrea	\$13,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$48,500
Ethiopia	\$14,200	\$11,000	\$11,000	\$101,500
Haiti	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$50,000
Uganda – 2 Mission Stations	\$8,500	\$3,500	\$3,500	\$191,400
Uganda – Clinic Operations	\$45,500	\$38,850	\$45,500	\$522,583
Uruguay	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$1,750

DIACONAL MINISTRY IN ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is an active mission work of the OPC even though the Lord has not yet made a way for a full-time missionary to serve there. The indigenous church that has been planted there is the conduit through which the CDM is able to minister to some of the local diaconal needs. The CDM funds, in the amount of \$14,200 in 2021, are primarily used to minister to young children from very poor homes, individuals who have been infected or affected by HIV, and others in the church who face various needs. The significant increase in giving to Ethiopia in 2021 was due to the devastating effects of the civil war occurring within this country. They greatly covet the prayers of God's people.

DIACONAL MINISTRY IN HAITI

The OPC Haiti Mission reports that the CDM's gift of \$4,500 in 2021 was used primarily to help with school fees and to cover medical expenses for those both in Port-au-Prince and on Lagonav. After each expense was approved, typically only a percentage of the total request was disbursed. This happened in order to come alongside and do "with," not "for." By helping with school fees, the Mission is supporting the family to provide for themselves in the future. The school fee help was mainly for primary and secondary education. There were also continued disbursements for food aid as a result of the prolonged unrest and steeply rising prices of household goods. In 2021, following the assassination of the president of Haiti, the security problems caused by gangs now ruling the streets has further impacted the ability of church members to provide for themselves and their families. Hence, an additional \$5,500 gift was provided from the COVID-19 Pandemic Response Fund.

DIACONAL MINISTRY IN UGANDA

The OP Uganda Mission's stations in Mbale and Nakaale (Karamoja) each receive funds from the CDM for use in ministering to the needs of those in the local churches. In Nakaale, the mission diaconal funds are typically used for assisting the very poor with medical assistance, helping bury the dead, transporting sick to hospitals, providing food for the needy, and fulfilling many other needs. Many of these needs are coordinated through the Mercy Committee of Nakaale Presbyterian Church. Missionary deacon, Mark Van Essendelft reports, "I have been working with and handing over the reins of the control of the funds of the local church. I have been teaching on principles of financial duties within the local church. It has been exciting to see the members take ownership of the ministry of mercy."

The mission diaconal funds, those received from the CDM, generally get used for needs greater than the church can handle financially such as medical needs. Mark will often use the mercy committee members for advice in these situations as well.

The mission diaconal funds also enable to mission to carry out a farm project. The farm project is a work program that has provided both financially for needy people but has also been a great tool to build relationships with those in the community. In 2021, most people's crops were not good because of a drought in the middle of the growing season. Yet Mark reports that, by God's grace, they were blessed with a very good crop of g-nuts (peanuts) and cotton. He will often employ the very poor people, those

who come to the mission asking for help, in the farm project so that they can provide food for their families. One example of this is a woman named Awas Regina. She has four young children and is married to a drunk husband who has abandoned her. She was employed shelling peanuts a few days a week and began attending the church services. These are the types of relationships that the farm project enables the mission to build and, through which, to demonstrate the love of Christ in both word and deed.

In Mbale, the diaconal mission funds are typically used to help pay for medical treatment and supplemental food for the widows in the village churches. The missionaries give thanks for this means to minister to the needs of the congregations, reducing the number of those who approach them directly for aid; those in need of assistance now know to present their needs to their local deacons.

AKISYON A YESU PRESBYTERIAN CLINIC IN UGANDA

The OP Uganda Mission has quite a vibrant diaconal component to its ministry in Nakaale, where the Akisyon A Yesu (Compassion of Jesus) Presbyterian Clinic (AYPC) is a significant operation. AYPC, with its staff of thirty-five indigenous workers (twenty of whom are Karamojong), served 11,019 patients in 2021, of which 9,119 were new patients. With the subsidized care, the clinic draws patients from many miles around, spreading their influence widely. They have a chaplain at the clinic who provides devotions for the staff and the patients daily, allowing them to have a Word and deed ministry. They have added a second midwife to their staff this year, allowing them to give more professional care consistently. A difficult, yet significant, occurrence in 2021 was having to request the resignation of a long-time nurse, who was in training to become the administrator of the clinic, due to public sin. In 2022, they will welcome back Dr. Jim Knox as medical director while continuing to look for a Ugandan doctor. Associate Missionary Christopher Verdick continues to faithfully serve as the medical administrator for the clinic.

With the improved clinic facilities, the next step is to improve the dilapidated staff housing. In 2021, initial work on the staff housing was begun by finalizing the details of the plan and constructing a perimeter fence around the area where the clinic housing will be built. As of the writing of this report, the foundations for the first six housing units have been laid with anticipated completion of these units in the coming months. The mission feels that improved staff housing will be essential toward recruiting quality staff.

DIACONAL MINISTRY FOR MISSIONARIES

In addition to ministering diaconally *through* our missionaries, there are times when the CDM also ministers diaconally *to* our missionaries. Occasionally, circumstances on the field have enabled the CDM to be a blessing directly to those who labor for the gospel. The CDM looks forward to further opportunities to bring such relief to beloved OPC missionaries.

In June of 2019, the Committee on Foreign Missions invited the CDM to get involved in overseeing a ministry of mercy to the Tuininga family following their unexpected return from the field in Uganda, in particular Dianna and the nine children. The ARS gained the involvement of the local deacons of the PCA church where Dianna and the children settled. The Lord faithfully supplied all that was needed, such that, upon Dianna's re-marriage in July 2021 and thus conclusion of this ministry, there was sufficient funds remaining to be able to return to the CFM the original amount of funds it provided for the care of this family (\$56,000!). The Lord certainly supplies beyond what one can ask or imagine. It is also noteworthy that the remainder of funds entrusted to the local PCA that was caring for Dianna were sent to the CDM out of gratitude for the OPC's commitment to this family even when their membership was not in the OPC, but was in the PCA.

INTERNATIONAL DIACONAL NETWORK

Through the service of its Administrator on the seven-member Diaconal Committee of the International Conference of Reformed Churches (ICRC, of which the OPC is a member), the CDM has been able to network with diaconal bodies of sister reformed and presbyterian churches around the world. The objective of the committee is to learn from each other and foster fellowship and cooperation in their various diaconal ministries. In 2020, this committee sought to construct a comprehensive description of The Diaconal

Ministry of the Church, hoping this might be useful to the 34 sister denominations in the ICRC which all have different histories and contexts. This statement has been published on the ICRC website, <https://www.icrconline.com/diaconal>.

EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

On October 30, 2020, a 7.0 earthquake vigorously shook the city of Izmir, Turkey, tumbling apartment buildings. Upon learning that members of the reformed congregation there had lost their home, the ARS, with concurrence of the CFM, determined to send a gift of \$2,500 to help them recover from this devastating event.

FLOODING IN THE NETHERLANDS

Between July 12 – 15, 2021, heavy rains led to the overflowing of the Meuse River in Limburg, the Netherlands. It is not often that there are opportunities to come alongside our sister churches in the Netherlands, but it was learned that a local congregation of the Christian Reformed Church of the Netherlands, a church with whom the OPC has fraternal relations, was nearby ministering to those affected. As such, with the concurrence of the OPC's Committee on Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations (CEIR), the ARS determined to send a gift of \$2,000 to be used to assist those suffering there.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE (CPR) FUND

On March 26, 2020, the CDM determined to establish the COVID-19 Pandemic Response (CPR) Fund. In 2021, the CPR Fund received a total of \$39,682 for a total of \$115,309 received in 2020 and 2021. Thankfully, the need for assistance has not been so great in OP churches in the US, but sister churches around the world have been hurt much more by the effects of the pandemic. As such, thus far, the fund has been used exclusively to come alongside sister churches in other countries. The total disbursements have been \$77,195. Of this, \$53,125 has been disbursed in 2021 as follows:

- India (PFC-CI via Word & Deed) - \$8,000
- India (RPCNEI via Word & Deed) – \$5,000
- Kenya (AEPC) – \$13,625 + \$14,000 + \$7,000 = \$34,625
- Haiti (OP Haiti Mission) - \$5,500

C. MINISTRY TO THOSE AFFECTED BY DISASTERS

A major disaster to which the CDM might respond has been defined as “a calamity which arises suddenly and unexpectedly, resulting from an identifiable natural or man-made event like an earthquake, volcano, tsunami, flood, hurricane (or typhoon), famine caused by drought, large-scale civil unrest or rioting, or war, which directly injures the persons and property of tens of thousands of people in a defined geographical area.” Disasters produce excellent opportunities to demonstrate the concern and compassion of the church for those who are hurting, bearing a tremendous testimony to the mercy that has been shown to us; we love, because He first loved us (I John 4:19). Thank the Lord for kindly sparing the OPC of such a “major disaster” in 2021.

DISASTER RESPONSE TO CHURCH MEMBERS

In addition to major disasters, the CDM stands ready to bring assistance to those affected by disasters of much smaller magnitude but where OPC members or property have been directly impacted. This ministry to the household of faith is a tangible outworking of the communion of saints, as the Westminster Confession states, “and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other’s gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.” (WCF XVI:1).

DISASTER RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

The CDM's Disaster Response Subcommittee (DRS) works closely with Mr. Nakhla in his role as the OPC Disaster Response Coordinator. It oversees the OPC's disaster response efforts from beginning to end, acting as a sounding board for the Coordinator, and advising and giving consent to particular disaster response actions and activities. Since ministering to those affected by disasters is still a developing ministry in the OPC, the DRS continues to work toward enhancing and refining the disaster response policies and procedures of the CDM. One of the encouraging recent developments has been a more intentional engagement of DRS members in the ongoing oversight of disaster response efforts, serving as members of specific disaster oversight committees (DOC). For instance, Seth Long served as a member of the Hurricane Florence DOC, John Voss, Jr. served on the Midland Flood DOC, and Rick Dickinson served as the chairman of the Isaias Storm DOC.

DISASTER RESPONSE EQUIPMENT

Following Hurricane Katrina, the CDM took ownership of several trailers, a truck, a skidsteer, and other equipment such as chainsaws and generators, purchased in response to that disaster. Much of this equipment was stored for years in New Jersey in a pole barn constructed for this purpose. The CDM increasingly finds that the equipment needs differ from one region of the country to the next. For example, Hurricane Katrina required lots of equipment like chainsaws to cut and move trees. Hurricane Sandy required equipment to pump out New York City basements and repair HVAC systems located in those basements. Hurricane Florence required dehumidifiers to enable the drying out of homes in a humid environment.

In recent years, the CDM is moving from a posture of storing up lots of equipment in a central place, to enabling the purchase of the equipment required to respond to the disaster that strikes a certain region. Once the disaster response there is complete, the CDM welcomes the diaconal committee in that presbytery to retain the equipment for future use, encouraging them to make that equipment available to neighboring presbyteries, should such need arise. In June 2020, it was wonderful to see the commercial dehumidifiers, purchased in response to Hurricane Florence in North Carolina, transported to Michigan to be used following the Midland flooding there, and then in August 2020 transported to Maryland to be used following the flooding caused by Tropical Storm Isaias there. In September 2021, this equipment was transported to Upper Dublin, PA, to be used in homes flooded during the tornado that impacted neighborhoods there. It is a blessing to see these valuable and effective disaster response tools utilized in various locations around the country and their movement facilitated by diaconal committees. This is one expression of the network of deacons in action!

The CDM welcomes the opportunity to come alongside presbyteries in helping them get equipped for disaster response. In 2021, the Presbytery of Philadelphia expressed its desire for a 6'x12' box trailer to store tools and supplies for responding to disasters that occur within its regional bounds and that of the adjoining presbyteries. It expressed its willingness to purchase the equipment to fill the trailer. The CDM was thankful to have the ability to respond with a gift of \$4,500 for the purchase of that trailer. That trailer has been acquired, is stored at Trinity OPC in Hatboro, PA, and is in the process of being equipped for service.

PRESBYTERY OVERSIGHT IN DISASTER RESPONSE

Typically, disasters are regional events. Those best suited to respond, at least initially, are those who are situated locally and regionally. And yet, prior to 2017, there had been little involvement of the regional church in the oversight of OPC disaster response efforts. God's timing is always perfect, as seen in the fact that the transition of oversight of disaster response to the presbyteries was a significant theme not only at the 2016 Presbytery Diaconal Summit but also at the 2017 National Diaconal Summit. This providentially served as great preparation for the unfolding of three disasters (Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria) impacting three different presbyteries (the Presbyteries of the Southwest (PSW), the South (PSO), and New Jersey (PNJ), respectively) within three weeks of each other in August and September 2017 and then another major hurricane (Hurricane Florence) impacting a fourth presbytery (the Presbytery of the Southeast (PSE)) in September 2018. In 2020, the Midland Flood impacted a fifth presbytery, the

Presbytery of Michigan & Ontario (PMO), and the Tropical Storm Isaias Flood impacted a sixth presbytery, the Presbytery of the Mid-Atlantic (PMA).

It has been encouraging to see these regional disasters serve as a catalyst toward these presbyteries becoming more organized for overseeing disaster response within their bounds, not only organizationally, but also with equipment and communications.

DISASTER ADVANCED RESPONSE TEAM (D.A.R.T.)

In the week immediately following Hurricane Florence, a Disaster Advanced Response Team (DART) served to remove trees from homes, tarp roofs, pump basements, etc. Having seen what a tremendous blessing this team was to those who survived Hurricane Florence, the Presbytery Diaconal Committee of the PSE determined to outfit a trailer with equipment suitable for that work as well as to raise up a team of individuals trained and equipped to engage in this “advance response” work. The DART is now in place. The CDM gifted the PSE PDC with the box trailer and almost \$14,000 to purchase the equipment with which to outfit this trailer. The DART is currently standing by and ready and willing to serve all the churches in the PSE, along with those churches in adjacent presbyteries. To serve as a DART responder, one is required to go through FEMA’s C.E.R.T. training, put their household in order, and agree to serve under the oversight of the PSE PDC.

There are currently 18 men qualified to serve on the DART. In October, 2021, the PSE hosted its second DART recruiting event, held concurrent with the meeting of the PSE at Covenant OPC in Buford, GA, where the DART trailer is stored. Interested men from many churches, and even a few outside the presbytery, attended. Those interested in serving can contact the CDM or the DART’s key point of contact, elder Mike Cloy at opcmikecloy@gmail.com.

DISASTER RESPONSE LEADERSHIP

The Lord continues to raise up individuals to serve in leadership roles: the Site Coordinators (a key role without which there could be no disaster response effort), Volunteer Coordinators, Hospitality Coordinators, and Regional Disaster Response Coordinators. All have served faithfully with little fanfare or recognition, generally without compensation. These unsung heroes are the backbone of disaster response efforts and we praise the Lord for raising up these servants “for such a time as this”.

DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEERS

There are also hundreds of volunteers, from far and wide, who have responded to the call to come and give of their time, talents, and energies. Some come for a few days. Others come for a few months. The typical length of service for volunteers is one week. Their contribution is indispensable. They bring a renewed sense of energy and vigor to those who have grown weary. They come ready to serve, and leave with some sense of accomplishment, but also with an even greater sense of being blessed by those they came to serve. As the Lord taught, “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” With all the travel restrictions associated with the COVID-19 Pandemic, we are especially thankful for those who sacrificed this year to come and serve. Thankfully, the Lord kept our disaster response sites almost entirely covid-free, and those related to this work who did get sick have since recovered. The CDM greatly appreciates all who have responded to the call to serve with their time, treasures, and talents, and encourages those who have not been involved to consider what they might be missing!

DISASTER RESPONSE VOLUNTEER REGISTRY

In 2019, the DRS sought to establish a general Disaster Response Volunteer Registry. This registry is intended to identify all those who might be interested in serving long before a disaster occurs. By the end of 2021, the Disaster Response Volunteer Registry contains a list of 305 volunteers. Others who would like to be included can easily register at opcdisasterresponse.org/volunteer-registry/.

DISASTER RESPONSE COMMUNICATION PORTALS

- OPCDisasterResponse.org Website
 - In March 2019, the CDM launched this separate website focused on disaster response coordination.
- OPC.org Website
 - The STM page on OPC.org may include disaster response updates.
 - The homepage on OPC.org may host disaster response feature articles.
- *The S.T.O.R.M. Report (Short-Term Outreach Relief & Missions)*
 - This monthly short-term missions and disaster response e-newsletter serves as the direct connection into one's email inbox for keeping individuals and churches abreast of disaster response reports and opportunities for service. In 2021, 12 issues of *The S.T.O.R.M. Report* were sent plus 3 special editions. Those interested in being added to the distribution for *The S.T.O.R.M. Report* can register their email address here: opcstm.org/storm-reports/sign-up-to-receive-the-s-t-o-r-m-report/
- *OPC Disaster Response* on Facebook
 - This communication channel serves as the best means for immediate information on a developing disaster situation and its impact upon the OPC. This page can be found here: facebook.com/OPCDisasterResponse/
- *The New Horizons* magazine
 - As disaster response information and reports mature, *New Horizons* is a means to communicate to a broader audience.
- *The D.R.I.P (Disaster Response Insider Post)*
 - This short e-newsletter is used to communicate timely information exclusively to those who have registered as OPC Disaster Response volunteers.

DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDS

The summary of designated gifts the CDM has received for disasters in recent years includes:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>TOTAL RECEIVED</u>	<u>EOY BALANCE</u>
n/a	General Disaster Fund	\$408,818	\$139,673
January 2010	The Earthquake in Haiti	\$376,326	\$19,858
March 2011	The Tsunami in Japan	\$628,016	\$0
October 2012	Hurricane Sandy in NY and NJ	\$180,907	\$0
May 2013	The Tornado in Moore, OK	\$5,336	\$0
November 2013	Typhoon Yolanda in the Philippines	\$13,208	\$0
April 2014	The Tornado in Pantego, NC	\$9,450	\$0
November 2015	The Refugee Crisis	\$131,724	\$22,463
August 2016	Flooding in Louisiana	\$3,394	\$0
August 2017	Hurricane Harvey	\$430,897	\$0
September 2017	Hurricane Irma	\$112,947	\$0
September 2017	Hurricane Maria	\$112,277	\$0
September 2018	Hurricane Florence	\$126,150	\$0
March 2020	COVID-19 Pandemic	\$115,309	\$32,614
May 2020	Flooding in Michigan	\$69,093	\$5,933
<u>August 2020</u>	Tropical Storm Isaias	<u>\$27,220</u>	<u>\$24,397</u>
TOTAL		\$2,751,072	\$244,938

Detailed descriptions of the OPC’s activities in response to each of these disasters can be found in previous reports of the CDM to the General Assembly. The total dollar figure above, representing funds received from OPC members, sister churches, and non-OPC individuals, demonstrates a profound compassion for those who suffer great loss, and aptly reflects the mercy and compassion of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

SURPLUS DISASTER RESPONSE FUNDS

The CDM has a few policies regarding what to do with funds designated for a specific disaster response effort after that disaster response effort comes to a close. They are as follows:

While the Committee on Diaconal Ministries is committed to utilizing donations designated for a specific disaster towards that disaster, on occasion a portion of the Designated Fund may remain long after the disaster response effort has concluded. In that circumstance, the CDM has the following policies in place:

- 1. Any designated Disaster Response Funds that remain two years after the date of the disaster may be transferred to the General Disaster Response Fund.*
- 2. Amounts in the General Disaster Response Fund over \$50,000 may be transferred to the CDM General Fund.*

The CDM made no such transfers in 2021.

D. MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH LOCAL DEACONS

One of the primary reasons for the existence of the CDM is to encourage local deacons in their labors and to identify, promote, develop, and distribute resources for deacons. The diaconal ministry of the OPC is predominantly carried out by deacons locally and regionally.

DIACONAL TRAINING SUBCOMMITTEE

The Diaconal Training Subcommittee (DTS) is responsible for considering ways to assist and encourage deacons in their labors in the local church. The primary way in which the DTS trains and encourages deacons is through periodic diaconal conferences, both national (denomination-wide) and regional (presbytery-wide).

THE REFORMED DEACON PODCAST

In recent years, the Committee on Christian Education (CCE) has been desiring to provide a particular ministry specifically for OPC ruling elders. In 2020, the CCE determined to create a podcast for elders and invited the CDM to provide a companion podcast for deacons. In early 2021, the CDM accepted the invitation of the CCE and established a subcommittee of the DTS to oversee this ministry, the Diaconal Podcast Subcommittee (DPS). DTS members Sudlow and Cashen were assigned to this work.

Thanks to the relentless work of the CDM’s Communication Coordinator, Trish Duggan, in cooperation with the CCE and the DPS, The Reformed Deacon podcast emerged, uploading its inaugural episode on November 1, 2021. Since then, it has continued to upload a podcast on the first of each month. As the website says, “The Reformed Deacon exists to strengthen and encourage the brotherhood of reformed deacons in their God-given role of serving the local church”.

The episodes to date include:

- Nov 1, 2021 – “*Meet Deacon Tim Hopper*”; featuring deacon Tim Hopper
- Dec 1, 2021 – “*Refugee Ministry*”; featuring Rev. Chris Cashen
- Jan 1, 2022 – “*Church Safety in the 21st Century*”; featuring elder Matt Butler

- Feb 1, 2022 – “*Caring for the Elderly & Shut-Ins*”; featuring Revs. Don Buchanan & Richard Shaw
- Mar 1, 2022 – “*Why You Should Attend the Summit*”; featuring deacons Geno Altieri & Mark Palmer
- Apr 1, 2022 – “*Interview with Dr. Cornelis Van Dam*”; featuring the author of “*The Deacon*”

The podcast can be found at TheReformedDeacon.org or on most podcast players.

THE NATIONAL DIACONAL SUMMIT

The fourth national diaconal summit (NDS 2021) was scheduled to be held June 10 – 12, 2021 on the campus of Wheaton College. In November 2020, due to the ongoing restrictions and uncertainties related to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the CDM determined to postpone the summit for one year. The new dates were set for June 9-11, 2022. In June, the General Assembly set the dates for the next General Assembly to occur June 8-14, 2022. Given the date conflict, the CDM determined to shift the dates to June 2-4, 2022. Differing from the previous three summits, the CDM anticipates using speakers from within the OPC for all its speaking slots, rather than bringing in a keynote speaker from outside the OPC. The aim is to provide as practical an experience as possible for the deacons who attend.

Video footage from the plenary sessions of the 2010, 2012, and 2017 National Diaconal Summits continues to be available for diaconal training purposes, particularly useful for training deacons who were ordained since the summits or for those who would simply like a refresher on what was learned. The videos can be found at opccdm.org/training/.

CONTINUING THE CONVERSATION

Due to the disappointment of seeing so many important gatherings cancelled due to the pandemic, including the National Diaconal Summit, the CDM determined to strive to “Continue the Conversation”. Thus, a special 90-minute Zoom meeting aptly named “Continuing the Conversation” (CtC) was conceived to, in some ways, mimic some of the best aspects of the national summit: inspiring talks, encouraging fellowship, and uplifting prayer. More than 100 men attended the Zoom session held on the morning of Saturday, June 12, 2021, the same time that the planned summit ought to have been concluding, had it not been postponed due to the pandemic.

DEACON CHECK-IN

A new means of ministering to deacons that was unveiled at the CtC event is called “Deacon Check-In”. For those deacons who desired it, the CDM offered to pair them up with another deacon in another region of the OPC with whom they would enjoy a call during a set month, sharing, encouraging, advising, and praying with and for one another. A dozen or so deacons engaged in this ministry and it is expected to grow in the years ahead.

PRESBYTERY DIACONAL SUMMITS

A significant focus of the CDM is to encourage Presbytery Diaconal Committees (PDC) in their labors. The CDM seeks to facilitate a network of deacons (local, regional, and denominational) working together as a unit for the good of the church and her witness. The CDM considers the PDC to be the “lynch pin” in this endeavor. As such, it has hosted a Presbytery Diaconal Summit (PDS) every two or three years: 2012, 2014, 2016, and 2019. The CDM anticipates the next PDS to occur in 2023.

The purpose of the PDS is to offer both helpful training for members of the PDCs of the OPC’s seventeen presbyteries and a great time of fellowship and interaction for the members of each PDC, that they might grow in their capacity to serve their regional church well together.

PRESBYTERY DIACONAL COMMITTEE REVITALIZATION

The CDM has been encouraged to see many Presbytery Diaconal Committees (PDC) revitalized in their work in recent years. The CDM offers a *Proposed Mandate for the Work of the PDC*, a compilation of the mandates of various PDCs throughout the OPC's seventeen presbyteries. The mandate has been utilized by a number of presbyteries, sometimes in an edited form, to assist them in revising or improving the understood mandate of their PDC. The proposed mandate can be found at opccdm.org/resources/proposed-pdc-mandate/.

Quite a few presbyteries have made significant changes to the work and structure of their PDC in recent years. There are other presbyteries that have undergone healthy transition in their committee makeup as well. The CDM is willing to come alongside any presbytery diaconal committee desiring assistance in reviving or strengthening the work of their committee.

The CDM has noted continual turnover with the membership in the PDCs of several presbyteries. While there may be valid reasons for this at times, it ought to be noted that the important work of these presbytery committees will most likely be hampered by continual turn-over. If there are ways that the CDM might be helpful to those presbyteries suffering such continual turn-over, it is willing to help in anyway possible.

PRESBYTERY DIACONAL CONFERENCES

One of the first actions the CDM recommends that a revitalized Presbytery Diaconal Committee (PDC) take (after getting organized and gathering contact information for all the deacons in the presbytery) is to host a presbytery diaconal conference. These conferences are a great way for the PDC to get to know many of the deacons in their presbytery and for all deacons to meet one another, receive training in diaconal matters, and be encouraged and motivated in the ministry of mercy that is theirs on behalf of the church. The CDM offers a gift of up to \$5,000 to assist a PDC with any expenses incurred in hosting its first diaconal conference. The CDM knows of no presbytery diaconal conferences held in 2021, most likely due to the constraints of the pandemic. In an effort to encourage each PDC to consider sponsoring diaconal conferences on a periodic basis, the CDM is willing to help the PDCs in their efforts to underwrite and organize such events.

OPC DEACONS FACEBOOK PAGE

The *OPC Deacons* Facebook page is structured as a closed group so that it is closed to all but OPC officers in order to encourage candidness and ensure privacy among its members. This forum gives deacons the ability to share diaconal resources they find interesting and relevant, and to discuss topics or specific matters pertaining to their work as deacons. There are currently 280 OPC officers who have joined the page and are able to communicate with one another via this private form of social media. This year saw many good discussions and advice such as:

- *Should diaconal funds be invested?*
- *If someone needs help due to losing their job as a result of refusing a COVID-19 vaccination, should that fact affect how you help them?*
- *What is the best financial software to use for church treasurer?*
- *What are techniques for enhancing the sound in your church's auditorium?*
- *Any advice on video recording equipment?*
- *What are some effective ways to communicate your church's presence to your community?*
- *Are there efficient methods for recording the attendance of your congregants?*

All OPC officers on Facebook are welcome to join the discussion!

THE MERCY MINUTE

Since being started back in 2012, the quarterly e-newsletter of the CDM, *The Mercy Minute*, completed its 10th year in 2021. It is intended to keep the deacons of the OPC informed and connected by sharing the work that local diaconates or presbytery diaconal committees are doing, bringing attention to specific needs

within the OPC, or simply bringing a word of encouragement. Admittedly, thanks to our growing awareness of the range of diaconal labors going on within the OPC, this publication has come to represent much more than a “minute” of material...and in this we rejoice! In 2021, 4 issues of *The Mercy Minute* were sent plus 3 special editions.

The Mercy Minute is currently emailed to almost 2,000 church officers. Anyone who wishes to be added to the distribution list may send a request to DiaconalMinistries@opc.org. Back issues of the newsletter can be found at opccdm.org/resources/mercy-minute/.

MINISTRY OF MERCY LECTURES

In 2018, the CDM Administrator prepared a series of five lectures on *The Ministry of Mercy* to be used as part of the CFM’s Mobile Theological Mentoring Corp (MTMC), which is intended for churches in foreign countries where the OPC desires to encourage the church in its pursuit to become presbyterian and reformed.

The series covers the following topics:

- What is Mercy Ministry
- The Special Office of Deacon
- Qualifications for Deacons
- Principles for Diaconal Ministry
- Diaconal Ministry in Our Churches

This series is a concise compilation of material derived from 5-10 of the best books on the reformed understanding of the ministry of mercy and the work of the deacon. In late 2020, the CDM engaged the assistance of a deacon who writes training material professionally to put this material into a publishable format. It is anticipated that this effort will be complete mid-2022. In its final form, it is expected to be nine modules:

- What is Mercy Ministry?
- The Grounds for Mercy Ministry
- The Motives of Mercy Ministry
- The Special Office of Deacon
- Qualifications for Deacons
- Diaconal Spiritual Gifts
- Principles for Diaconal Ministry
- Diaconal Ministry in Our Churches
- The Challenge & Blessing

DIACONAL RESOURCES

The CDM continues to work with the Committee on Christian Education (CCE) to provide content for OPC publications that might help or encourage deacons in their labors or address topics that relate to the work of deacons. This material appears in *New Horizons*, *Ordained Servant* and on OPCCDM.org.

OPCCDM.ORG

Launched in fall of 2019, the OPC Diaconal Ministries website, OPCCDM.org, includes the following resources:

- Introductions to the members of the CDM and the staff and their contact information
- Instructions on how to request diaconal assistance from the CDM
- Proposed mandate for the work of the presbytery diaconal committee
- Principles of diaconal ministry

- Teaching materials from diaconal summits in written and video formats.
- Disaster response information and links
- Refugee relief information
- *The Mercy Minute*
- Links to diaconal articles in *New Horizons*
- Recommended reading for deacons
- Instructions on how to donate to the CDM
- Links to The Reformed Deacon Podcast
- And so much more!

E. MINISTRY TO AND THROUGH MISSIONARY DEACONS

In reflecting upon the divinely ordained role of deacons to enable ministers of the Word to devote themselves to their calling, the CDM concluded that it is proper and appropriate to use CDM funds to participate in sending out missionary deacons to assist missionaries in their labors on the field. The CDM has a cooperative agreement with the Committee on Foreign Missions (CFM) to promote the work of the church through the ministry of missionary deacons. It is clearly understood that the missionary deacon is sent by and is under the oversight of the CFM.

MISSIONARY DEACON SUBCOMMITTEE

The Missionary Deacon Subcommittee (MDS) assists in recruiting, training, fielding, visiting, and encouraging missionary deacons. Missionary deacons are sent in response to the request of the field and with the concurrence of the CFM. The CDM Administrator and members of the MDS seek to visit the missionary deacons when possible. The Administrator was able to visit missionary deacon Mark Van Essendelft in Nakaale, Uganda, in March 2021. This was the field's first visitor in 19 months! Firsthand knowledge of the fields where missionary deacons labor, gained by a visit to those fields by members of the MDS, provides valuable help to the MDS in its efforts to serve, advise, and encourage the men serving on those fields.

HAITI MINUTE MEN

The CDM serves the OP Haiti Mission (OPHM) in recruiting and funding a fleet of skilled workers, now affectionately referred to as the "Haiti Minute Men," who are called upon to serve on a short-term basis to care for OPHM vehicles and property, and to help with diaconal training as needs arise, in lieu of putting a full-time missionary deacon on the field. The CDM makes use of a portion of the remaining Haiti earthquake relief funds to help cover the travel costs of those who go to serve the OPHM in this capacity. In 2021, no volunteers were able to travel to Haiti due to the dangers on the ground there; the pandemic, political unrest, etc. The OPHM is thankful for the Minute Men and prays that the Lord would enable such visitors to return soon.

MISSIONARY DEACON TO UGANDA

In 2018, the CDM came alongside the CFM in supporting facilities engineer/missionary deacon Mark Van Essendelft in Uganda with 50% of his support. This support began in the fall of 2018 and continued through 2019. In 2020, the CFM graciously allowed the CDM to continue supporting Mr. Van Essendelft, but at a reduced percent of his costs: at 25%, and that continued in 2021.

F. MINISTRY TO REFUGEES

The global migrant crisis in 2015 brought the plight of refugees into the minds of many in the OPC. Outside of a natural disaster, there was no other event or topic that caused so many members of the OPC to inquire of the CDM for ways to help. This resulted in an intensive time of study of the topic and investigation into avenues to be of an assistance and witness to this needy portion of the world's population.

Until 2020, this work resided under the oversight of the CDM's Disaster Response Subcommittee (DRS). But from the start, it was apparent that the ministry to refugees was very different from most of what the DRS found as its focus. Once it was clear to the CDM that there were viable means by which the OPC might participate in the ministry to refugees and that this was not a temporary need but was going to be with us for awhile, the CDM, at its fall 2020 meeting determined to establish a permanent subcommittee with the ministry to refugees as its focus.

The RMS met almost monthly in 2021. A survey on refugee ministry was constructed and sent out to OP churches in an effort to learn more about the history of refugee ministry in the OPC. A significant work of the RMS was the series of four articles, written by Chris Cashen, designed to better inform OP churches on ministry to refugees. The titles of the four articles, which appeared in subsequent issues of *The S.T.O.R.M. Report* were:

- May 19, 2021 – Part 1: “Is it Safe for Christians to Refuse to Welcome the Stranger?”
- July 15, 2021 – Part 2: “The Case of the Strang Ers”
- August 25, 2021 - Part 3: “What Will We Lose by Inviting Refugees to our Dinner Table?”
- October 27, 2021 – Part 4: “A Step-by-Step Guide to Beginning Refugee Ministry”

REFUGEE MINISTRY – INTERNATIONAL - GREECE

In 2014, many in the OPC began to ask the CDM how they might participate in bringing relief to those suffering in the worldwide refugee crisis. Given the level of interest, and the severity of the situation, the CDM committed to search for good ministries to which gifts designated for refugee relief could be sent. In the course of its search, it discovered the work of the Greek Evangelical Church (GEC), which ministers to the needs of refugees fleeing from the Middle East as they pass through Greece on their way to Germany. Funds were sent to the GEC and a site visit was carried out in 2017 (details of that trip can be found in the report to the 85th General Assembly). This visit affirmed the CDM's belief that effective diaconal ministry to refugees (and other vulnerable people groups) is best carried out by the local church, as the GEC is doing.

The deacons fund of Trinity OPC in Easton, PA, has served as a repository for funds designated for this important ministry in Greece. The CDM has then served to forward these funds on to the GEC. In 2021, a total of \$11,600 was sent to the GEC.

REFUGEE MINISTRY – SOUTH SUDAN

In March 2020, after many years of longing to visit, the Administrator of the CDM was finally able to make a visit to Juba, South Sudan. On his visit, he was accompanied by OP Uganda Missionaries Charles Jackson and James Folkerts, as well as a South Sudanese brother, Okuch Ojello, who lives in Mbale, Uganda, serving as an instructor at the OPC's Knox School of Theology. Mr. Nakhla had met the moderator of the Sudanese Reformed Church (SRC, a member of the ICRC), Patrick Jok, four years prior at the ICRC General Conference in Jordan, Ontario, Canada.

In 2013, a little more than two years after gaining independence, South Sudan broke into a civil war, largely dividing along ethnic lines: the Dinkas vs. the Nuer. With the Dinkas in power, the Nuer fled into United Nations Internally-Displaced People (IDP) camps. These camps are located in the largest cities of South Sudan: Juba, Melut, Wau, Bor, Bentiu, and Malakal.

The SRC has members in a number of these camps. Ministering to the saints in these camps is a ministry of both Word and deed and is overseen by committees within the SRC. The delegation visiting South Sudan was given the opportunity to visit one of the IDP camps on the outskirts of Juba and was very much encouraged by the faith of the saints there.

Upon completion of this visit, the RMS determined to partner with the organization Word and Deed in coming alongside the ministry of the SRC with a gift of \$5,000 to be used to provide food and supplies to the saints in the IDP camps.

REFUGEE MINISTRY - DOMESTIC

While funds could be sent to many far-off places to minister to refugees, the Lord has brought to the attention of the CDM opportunities that exist right here in North America, where we are surrounded by immigrants and refugees who have become our neighbors. Such ministry is not merely diaconal in nature, but is a significant opportunity to share the gospel as well. As such, the CDM continues to give thanks for the opportunity to partner with the CHMCE in investigating how best to minister to this segment of our population. Throughout Scripture, the church is reminded of the special concern it ought to have for the sojourner and stranger, even as we ourselves are strangers on earth in a home that is not our final one.

EVANGELIST TO REFUGEES IN CLARKSTON

In April 2017, Redeemer OPC (Atlanta, GA), called the Rev. Christopher Cashen to serve as an evangelist to the refugees in nearby Clarkston, GA, a town with a population of thirteen thousand that has welcomed over forty thousand refugees in the past twenty-five years. In August 2020, Cashen concluded his labors in Clarkston. On August 13, 2021, the Rev. Melaku Temerat was called, ordained and installed to serve as the evangelist to Clarkston. In 2021, the CDM again contributed \$27,000 toward ministry expenses in Clarkston.

G. MINISTRY THROUGH THE SHORT-TERM MISSIONS COORDINATOR

In 2010, the CDM, in coordination with the CHMCE and the CFM, created a staff position with the title of Short-Term Missions Coordinator to assist them in supporting, developing, and promoting a short-term missions program at home and abroad. Mr. Nakhla continues to hold this position in addition to serving as CDM Administrator and Disaster Response Coordinator. He carries out this work with very much assistance from his capable team consisting of Mrs. Duggan and Mrs. Klazinga

Following is the report of the Short-Term Missions Coordinator in 2021.

Report of the Short-Term Missions Coordinator For the Year 2021

“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16 (ESV)

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS ON FOREIGN FIELDS

In 2021, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there were no short-term missions on foreign fields.

SHORT-TERM MISSIONS ON NON-FOREIGN FIELDS

One does not have to look outside the boundaries of our own country to find a meaningful short-term missions opportunity.

In 2021, one hundred and nineteen members of the OPC served on The Boardwalk Chapel in Wildwood, NJ .

- For a statistical summary of individuals, churches, and presbyteries represented on short-term missions teams in 2021, please see the addendum to this report.

- For an overview of all the STM opportunities offered through the OPC, please visit: OPCSTM.org/category/overview/

THE BOARDWALK CHAPEL, WILDWOOD, NJ 2021

The Boardwalk Chapel, a ministry of the Presbytery of New Jersey, has provided a consistent witness to the hope of the gospel on the boardwalk in Wildwood, NJ, every summer since 1945. The year 2021 marked the Boardwalk Chapel's 77th summer of ministry. This gem of the OPC continues to flourish as a wonderful training ground for beginner short-term missionaries.

OPC and non-OPC volunteers serve in various capacities at the Boardwalk Chapel, including:

- **Administrative Staff:** Includes a director, administrative assistant, maintenance coordinator, house parents, and evangelism trainers.
- **Work Teams:** Serve on weekends in May, helping to clean, paint, make repairs, and otherwise prepare the Chapel buildings for the busy summer season.
- **Volunteer Summer Staff:** Consists of teams and leaders (Evangelism, Drama, Music, Domestic, A/V) that give of their time and talents to testify on the boardwalk, on the beaches, and during the nightly services held at the Chapel.
- **Ministry Teams:** Church groups that serve for a week at a time, participating in the nightly music and drama programs, learning and practicing evangelism with the summer staff, and having a great time together!
 - In 2021, eleven churches took advantage of this great opportunity and sent over one hundred fifty volunteers to serve during one of ten ministry team weeks.

All told, seven OPC presbyteries, and non-OPC churches from six states, were represented among those who served at the Boardwalk Chapel in 2021.

CHURCHES HELPING CHURCHES

OPC Short-Term Missions seeks to encourage churches to help and serve one another on short-term projects. When churches make their needs known, and individuals and groups from other churches respond to the call, the collaboration results in thanksgiving for an accomplishment enjoyed by both the team participants and the recipients of the help. Visit OPCSTM.org/category/churches-helping-churches/ for many examples of this.

REQUEST A TEAM

Pastors and sessions might prayerfully consider whether there might be a local outreach event (such as a VBS), community service project, church ministry program, or facility improvement scheme, that could be undertaken with the help of a team from another church or presbytery. By requesting a team through OPC Short-Term Missions, a church creates an opportunity for those who desire to give of their time and gifts in short-term service.

Request a team at OPCSTM.org/request-a-team-to-help-your-church/.

STM COMMUNICATION PORTALS

OPCSTM.org

The website OPCSTM.org continues to serve as the primary platform from which to promote and report on OPC short-term missions activities.

OPC.org

- The STM page at OPC.org was updated with news and links throughout 2021.
- The homepage at OPC.org had two short-term missions feature articles in 2021.

Facebook

The *OPC Short-Term Missions* page on Facebook highlights and provides links to opportunities for service and reports from the field.

New Horizons

The *New Horizons* will include short-term missions articles, news items, or advertisements as able.

The *S.T.O.R.M. Report* = Short-Term Outreach, Relief, and Missions

The *S.T.O.R.M. Report*, a monthly e-newsletter, completed its tenth year in circulation in 2021.

The report highlights and provides links to short-term missions and disaster response opportunities, news, reports, and resources. In 2021, twelve regular editions, and three special editions were produced. The list of addresses to which the *S.T.O.R.M. Report* is sent is well over four thousand, including church officers, STM and disaster response participants, and anyone who has signed up to receive the Report.

- Pastors or sessions who are interested in the *S.T.O.R.M. Report* but are not finding it in their inbox are encouraged to contact OPCShortTermMissions@opc.org with a personal email address, since many opc.org addresses appear to interpret the email as spam due to its large distribution list.
- Pastors and sessions who receive the newsletter may forward it to their church email list, or download a printable bulletin insert or poster of the *S.T.O.R.M. Report*, found at OPCSTM.org/storm-reports/.
- The emailed newsletter has an unsubscribe feature that allows any recipient to opt out of receiving future issues.

STM SURVEY

Again in 2021, an online survey was sent to individuals who participated in summer short-term missions (STM). This year we tried something new and sent a survey to each team at the end of their week of service. We received a greatly increased response rate!

STMC REPORT CONCLUSION

May it be that the Lord uses the unprecedented constraints that cancelled so much of the OPC's short-term missions opportunities in 2021 to give all a renewed sense of urgency, that we might not presume that such opportunities will be available to us in the future, and that, as we have ability, we might engage others with that gospel message that is the only true hope that one can find in this life. It continues to be a privilege to report to the General Assembly on the work of the short-term missionaries who gave of their time, energies, gifts, and resources in and through the OPC. May each one of them, and those who sent them, be encouraged by this taste of the blessing that is received in giving. And may our Savior be pleased to use their work towards the purpose of calling His children unto Himself.

III. CDM ADMINISTRATION

A. Membership:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
2022	Richard M. Dickinson	Michael Di Peppino	John J. Voss, Jr.
2023	T. Nathan Trice	Seth B. Long	Christopher A. Sudlow
2024	Christopher B. Cashen		Ronald C. de Ru Timothy D. Hopper

B. Officers:

<i>President:</i>	T. Nathan Trice
<i>Vice-President:</i>	Seth B. Long
<i>Secretary:</i>	Christopher B. Cashen
<i>Treasurer:</i>	John J. Voss, Jr.

C. Subcommittees (as of Dec 31, 2021):

1. *Executive Committee:* **Trice**, Long, Cashen, Voss
2. Standing Subcommittees: (chairman in **bold**)
 - a. *Administration and Finance Subcommittee (AFS):* Long, **Sudlow**, Voss
 - b. *Aid Request Subcommittee (ARS):* de Ru, Di Peppino, **Long**, Voss
 - c. *Disaster Response Subcommittee (DRS):* de Ru, Dickinson, Long, **Voss**
 - d. *Diaconal Training Subcommittee (DTS):* Cashen, Hopper, Sudlow, **Trice**
 - i. *Diaconal Podcast Subcommittee (DPS):* Cashen, Hopper, **Sudlow**,
 - e. *Missionary Deacon Subcommittee (MDS):* **Cashen**, de Ru, Trice
 - f. *Refugee Ministry Subcommittee (RMS):* **Cashen**, Dickinson, Di Peppino, Voss
3. CDM Representative on *Missionary Widow Fund* (trustees of the Fund appointed by the CFM): Voss
4. CDM Advisors to the Committee on Ministerial Care: Nakhla, Trice

D. Staff:

<i>Administrator:</i>	David P. Nakhla (<i>since 2013</i>)
<i>Communications Coordinator:</i>	Patricia (Trish) L. Duggan (<i>since 2019</i>)
<i>Administrative Assistant:</i>	Sarah G. Klazinga (<i>since 2020</i>)
<i>Disaster Response Coordinator (DRC):</i>	David P. Nakhla (<i>since 2010</i>)

Short-Term Missions Coordinator (STMC): David P. Nakhla (*since 2010*)

E. Donations:

Tax-deductible donations to the CDM should be made payable to:

- *Orthodox Presbyterian Church*

These donations can be further noted as follows:

- *CDM* – For general benevolent use
- *Disaster Relief* – For general disaster relief
- *Refugee Relief* – For the relief of refugees
- *COVID Fund* – For those suffering from the global pandemic
- *Persecuted Church* – For those suffering particularly for the name of Christ
- *Medical Missions* – For the operation of Akisyon Presbyterian Clinic in Nakaale, Uganda (a part of the diaconal ministry of the OP Uganda Mission)
- *Special Relief – USA* – For ministry to long-term diaconal needs in the US.
- Additional instructions can be found at opccdm.org/donate/.

Please mail donations to:

*The Committee on Diaconal Ministries
Orthodox Presbyterian Church
607 Easton Rd., Bldg. E
Willow Grove, PA 19090*

F. Correspondence:

All correspondence pertaining to the work of the CDM may be sent to the CDM Administrator, Mr. David P. Nakhla, at david.nakhla@opc.org or more generally to DiaconalMinistries@opc.org.

Disaster response matters may be sent to OPCDisasterResponse@opc.org.
Short-term missions matters may be sent to OPCShortTermMissions@opc.org.

G. Policies:

CDM policies and procedures that are relevant to those outside the CDM can be found on the diaconal ministries webpage at opccdm.org/resources/.

H. Incorporation:

Since July 20, 2011, the CDM has been incorporated as a non-profit organization in the State of Delaware. This enables the CDM to own equipment and property, particularly helpful for ministering to those affected by disasters.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

- A. That for the year 2023 the General Assembly requests the churches of the OPC support the work of this committee at the suggested rate of \$30.00 per communicant member.

V. ELECTIONS

The terms expiring at this Assembly are:

<u>Class</u>	<u>Ministers</u>	<u>Ruling Elders</u>	<u>Deacons</u>
2022	Richard M. Dickinson	Michael Di Peppino	John J. Voss, Jr.

The bylaws stipulate that the class of 2025 ought to be populated by one minister, one elder, and one deacon. Rev. Dickinson and Deacon Voss have expressed their willingness to have their names placed for nomination for continued service on the CDM. Elder Di Peppino has asked that his name not be placed for nomination.

VI. BUDGET

	2020 Actual	2021 Budget	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
ADMINISTRATION & FINANCE (AFS)					
Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$197,794	\$215,000	\$203,312	\$233,540	\$249,000
Staff Travel	\$4,849	\$11,000	\$3,228	\$15,000	\$15,000
Office & Vehicle Expenses	\$19,581	\$20,000	\$20,670	\$20,000	\$20,000
Committee Mtg (including travel)	\$1,895	\$11,000	\$7,540	\$12,000	\$12,000
Promotional Material	\$8,562	\$8,000	\$9,380	\$12,000	\$12,000
Stipends	\$0	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Ministry Support / Development	\$14	\$9,000	\$9,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
COC Financial Services Fee	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000	\$20,000
Miscellaneous	\$0	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	\$1,000
AFS Total	\$252,695	\$297,000	\$273,130	\$320,540	\$336,000
AID REQUEST (ARS)					
Eritrea	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$13,000	\$20,000	\$13,000
Ethiopia	\$10,000	\$14,200	\$14,200	\$11,000	\$11,000
Haiti	\$5,000	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500	\$4,500
Uganda - Mission Stations	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$8,500	\$3,500	\$8,500
Uganda - Clinic	\$50,000	\$45,500	\$45,500	\$38,850	\$45,500
Uruguay	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$600
Special Relief - Fgn	\$7,000	\$20,000	\$4,500	\$15,000	\$15,000
Special Relief - USA	\$66,853	\$55,000	\$83,240	\$30,000	\$30,000
Transfer to CMC	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000
ARS Total	\$185,953	\$186,300	\$199,040	\$148,450	\$153,100
DIACONAL TRAINING (DTS)					
National Diaconal Summit	\$3,800	\$10,000	\$3,723	\$85,000	\$5,000
Presbytery Diaconal Summit	\$82	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$30,000
Other Diaconal Conferences	\$411	\$2,000	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000
Local Diaconal Visitation	\$0	\$15,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
DTS Total	\$4,292	\$27,000	\$3,723	\$92,000	\$37,000
MISSIONARY DEACON (MDS)					
MssryDeacon - Uganda	\$31,245	\$27,000	\$24,047	\$25,000	\$25,000
MDS Total	\$31,245	\$27,000	\$24,047	\$25,000	\$25,000
REFUGEE MINISTRY (RMS)					
Refugee Relief	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$32,400	\$32,400
RMS Total	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$27,000	\$32,400	\$32,400
Ministry Expenses Total	\$248,990	\$267,300	\$253,810	\$297,850	\$247,500
General Fund Expenses Total	\$501,686	\$564,300	\$526,939	\$618,390	\$583,500

VII. FINANCIALS

ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Committee on Diaconal Ministries
Statement of Activities Sheet
Period Ending December 31, 2021

Revenue**General Fund**

Contributions	\$392,148
Transfer from Disaster Response Fund	\$0
Interest Income	\$8,406
Short-Term Missions Services for CFM & CHMCE	\$77,500
Other Income	\$45,551

Total General Fund	\$523,604
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Disaster Response Fund

Contributions	\$151,015
Interest	\$206

Total Disaster Response Fund	\$151,221
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Total Revenue**\$674,825****Expenses****General Fund**

Administrative	\$273,130
Aid Requests	\$226,040
Diaconal Training	\$3,723
Missionary Deacon	\$24,047

Total General Fund	\$526,939
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Disaster Response Fund

Evangelist & Coordinator Honorariums	\$1,500
Direct Relief	\$82,587
Travel, Equipment & Indirect	\$10,352
Transfer to General Fund	\$0

Total Disaster Response Fund	\$94,439
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Total Expenses**\$621,378****Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets****\$53,447**

ORTHODOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Committee on Diaconal Ministries
Statement of Activities Sheet
Period Ending December 31, 2021
(continued)

Net Assets

Beginning [01/01/2021]	
General Fund	\$755,184
Disaster Response Fund	\$188,156
Total Net Assets	\$1,310,297
Ending [12/31/2021]	
General Fund	\$751,849
Disaster Response Fund	\$244,938
Total Net Assets	\$996,787

VIII. ADDENDUM

Disclaimer: All individuals and/or churches are acknowledged to the best of our ability.

ADDENDUM B: SHORT-TERM MISSIONS STATISTICS IN 2021

TOTALS:

172	Individuals served in short-term missions
119	Team Members from the OPC
53	Team Members from outside the OPC
7	Total OPC presbyteries represented
20	Total OPC churches represented

OP Churches Represented on STM Teams in 2021:

Reformation OPC	Mesa	Arizona	PSC
Calvin OPC	Phoenix	Arizona	PSC
Grace OPC	Carson	California	PSC
Bayview OPC	Chula Vista	California	PSC
Grace OPC	Costa Mesa	California	PSC
Harvest OPC	San Marcos	California	PSC
Redeemer OPC	O'ahu	Hawaii	PSC
Covenant OPC	Orland Park	Illinois	PMW
Community OPC	Kalamazoo	Michigan	PM&O
Harvest OPC	Wyoming	Michigan	PM&O
Grace Fellowship OPC	Zeeland	Michigan	PM&O
Immanuel OPC	Bellmawr	New Jersey	PNJ
Resurrection OPC	Matthews	North Carolina	PSE
Shiloh OPC	Raleigh	North Carolina	PSE
Harvest OPC	Winston-Salem	North Carolina	PSE
Covenant OPC	Vandalia	Ohio	POH
Covenant OPC	Sinking Spring	Pennsylvania	PPH
Covenant Community OPC	Greenville	South Carolina	PSE
Falls OPC	Menominee Falls	Wisconsin	PMW
Covenant OPC	New Berlin	Wisconsin	PMW

Non-OP Churches Represented on STM Teams in 2021:

Chalcedon PCA	Cumming	Georgia
New Covenant PCA	Abingdon	Maryland
Covenant PCA	Holland	Michigan
Immanuel Fellowship URC	Kalamazoo	Michigan
Cornerstone URC	Zeeland	Michigan
Christ Covenant PCA	Charlotte	North Carolina
Heritage PCA	Warrenton	Virginia
Trinity Reformed CREC	Martinsburg	West Virginia

Rev. Bill Shishko



“Diaconal Leadership Today”

Pastor Bill Shishko is a church planter in the Deer Park, New York region. He has served on many presbytery committees and several denominational committees, including Coordination, Ecumenicity and Interchurch Relations, Home Missions, and a long tenure on the Committee on Christian Education. He served for 35 years as pastor of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Franklin Square in Franklin Square, NY. Under his leadership the Franklin Square session gave birth to five daughter churches in New York City and Long Island. He has mentored dozens of young men in preparation for the Gospel ministry. In addition to his appointment as adjunct professor at Greenville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, he has taught homiletics and pastoral theology in the Ministerial Training Institute of the OPC. Short-term mission service has taken him to Suriname, Cyprus, Egypt, Uganda, China, Eritrea, and Wales. He’s also the host of the weekly radio program, *A Visit to the Pastor’s Study*. Shishko has been a frequent contributor both to *New Horizons* and *Ordained Servant*, as well as for the magazine *The Banner of Truth*. In 2009 he moderated the 76th General Assembly of the OPC, meeting in Grand Rapids, MI.

A native of Putnam, CT, Bill was raised in a nominal Greek Orthodox home, although he received some early religious instruction at a local Episcopal Church. He attended Bob Jones University and Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. He and his wife, Margaret, have one daughter and five sons (one of whom, Jonathan, has followed his father into ministry in the OPC), and five grandchildren. Bill and Margaret count it their greatest privilege to be servants of their Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and to serve Him in the Church of which they are a part.

DIACONAL LEADERSHIP TODAY

PLENARY ADDRESS #1: - Thursday, June 2, 2022 – 6:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION

I. *Today*: Male Leadership- The Great Void in Our Day

Some Reasons; The Matrix

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

NOTE: The Church is meant to be light! See John 1:5 – and be encouraged!

II. *Leadership* (Refer to *The 21 Indispensable Qualities of a Leader*)

III. *Diaconal Leadership*

*The grand, overarching, fundamental principle: You represent

_____ . Matthew 20:28

A. _____ : The Model for Deacons

B. Filtering this down to YOU:

1.

2.

3.

IV *Lagniappe*: A Little Something Extra

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

CONCLUSION: Your Great Opportunity Today
Some reflections on Psalm 11

A DEACON CATECHISM

Q. 1. *What is a deacon?*

A. An official representative of Christ, the great Servant.

Q. 2. *Where did the diaconate begin?*

A. In Acts 6, when the church got too large for one group of officers.

Q. 3. *What do deacons do?*

A. They free the elders to give attention to their work of prayer, ministry, and government by the Word of God; and they manage church temporalities and ministries of mercy.

Q. 4. *Where do we find the qualifications of a deacon?*

A. They are given generally in Acts 6:3 and specifically in I Timothy 3:8-13.

Q. 5. *May women be ordained as deacons?*

A. No. Office in the Christian church is confined to men; but women have always helped deacons with their work.

Q. 6. *How do deacons make their decisions?*

A. As a body (known as the Board of Deacons), in communication with one another, and always under the final authority of Holy Scripture.

Q. 7. *How are our deacons trained?*

A. They go through a course of study in doctrine as it applies to diaconal work, in the qualifications of a deacon, and in the deacon's various duties; they are also tested to find out if they serve faithfully.

Q. 8. *How do deacons assist others?*

A. By a combination of relief in emergency situations, assistance in rehabilitation when necessary, and discipleship that helps those in need to develop in living all aspects of their lives to God's glory.

Q. 9. *Do deacons have people to whom they are specifically responsible?*

A. Yes. To the poor who come within the sphere of our ministry, to brothers and sisters who become providentially impoverished, and to widows, orphans, and the fatherless.

Q. 10. *How should I respond to appeals from the Board of Deacons?*

A. As if Christ Himself is calling you to that assistance.

Q. 11. *How should a person respond to the assistance that comes from deacons?*

A. As if Christ Himself is assisting him or her.

Q. 12. *What things should I look for in a prospective deacon?*

A. Godliness, good sense, and the heart of a servant.

DEACON TRAINING PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION:

The following outline presents the major headings and sub-points of the Deacon Training Program I used for the preparation of men for the office of deacon in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Franklin Square, NY. I used this program for over 15 years and have found no reason to significantly modify it even in the second decade of this new millenium. Customarily I go over this material in a six-week period, using a “lecture” format followed by discussion. The accompanying prospectus presents the way I divide the material over the six-week period, together with the reading material which is required of the men who participate in this program.

The first half of the material gives an overview of Christian doctrine using various heads of the Westminster Confession of Faith. Unlike typical doctrinal overviews, however, this one seeks to use the confessional standards as a grid through which principles for diaconal ministry are garnered. This is a unique approach to a field in which I have found that too often principles are developed by more or less sanctified imagination wedded to benevolent intentions rather than by a systematic study of the doctrines of the Scriptures.

The second half of the material deals with the deacon and his work, beginning with the character of the deacon as a man, then proceeding to general and more specific applications of the diaconal task. Particularly the last lesson in this second half is very much “Franklin Square OPC specific”, but insofar as that congregation in suburban Long Island, NY is representative of other congregations with Presbyterian government it will provide, I trust, a good example for others.

The material is given in outline form. The advantage is that the material is available in a more succinct form. The disadvantage is that undeveloped points may be less clear (or even unclear). I hope that these disadvantages are kept to a minimum. Perhaps at some future point I will have the time to transform the skeleton into a fully body. I encourage you to modify the material as you desire and use it as freely as you like. Where the contents are useful I give glory to the God of grace; where it is not I accept full responsibility.

May God bless you in your work of training deacons who, in their office, represent the great Deacon of His Church, Jesus Christ, cf. Matthew 20:27f.

William Shishko, pastor
The Haven, Orthodox Presbyterian Church

DEACON TRAINING PROGRAM (Program Prospectus)

PURPOSES: The purposes of this series of classes are:

1. To give an overview of the system of doctrine taught in Holy Scripture and containing principles for the general work of the diaconate;
2. To provide an introduction to the qualifications necessary for those who serve as deacons in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church.
3. To present an outline of the responsibilities of those serving as deacons in a particular congregation such as the Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Franklin Square NY.

TEXTS & HANDOUTS: Required reading will be from the following:

- *Westminster Confession of Faith, (Free Presbyterian Publications Edition)
- *Berkhof, Louis. SUMMARY OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE (Eerdmans).
- *Berghoef, Gerard & Lester DeKoster. THE DEACON’S HANDBOOK. (Christian’s Library Press)
- *Coppes, Leonard J. WHO WILL LEAD US? (Pilgrim Publishing Company)
- *MacNair, Donald J. THE GROWING LOCAL CHURCH (Baker)
- MacNair, Donald J. THE LIVING CHURCH (GCP)
- Kuiper, R. B. THE GLORIOUS BODY OF CHRIST (Banner of Truth)
- Deacon’s Manual & Policy Manual (OPC, Franklin Square)

CLASS SCHEDULE: Classes will meet on six agreed upon *evenings* from 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. at locations to be established:

CLASS OUTLINE:**WEEKS 1 – 3: AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE**

“Deacons must...hold the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.” (I Tim. 3:8,9)

Week 1: God & Man

Required Reading: WCF, I – VII, IX
Berkhof, pps. 9 – 89

Week 2: Christ & His Work

Required Reading: WCF, VIII, X - XVIII
Berkhof, pps. 93 – 148

Week 3: The Church & Last Things

Required Reading: WCF, XIX – XXXIII
Berkhof, pps. 151 – 198

WEEKS 4 – 6: THE DEACON AND HIS WORK

“Let these also first be proved; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless” (I Tim. 3:10)

Week 4: The Deacon as a Man

Required Reading: Acts 6;1-7, I Timothy 3:8-13
MacNair, THE GROWING LOCAL CHURCH, pps. 79-86, 195 (handout)
MacNair, THE LIVING CHURCH, pps. 155-157 (handout)

Week 5: The Deacon as an Officer: General Considerations

Required Reading: Coppes, pps. 105 - 138
Kuiper, pps. 150-157 (handout)

Week 6: The Deacon as an Officer: Specific Applications

Required Reading: Berghoef & DeKoster, pps. 135 - 181
Coppes, pps. 139 - 154
MacNair, THE GROWING LOCAL CHURCH, pps. 109-125 (handout)
OPC, Franklin Square Deacon’s Manual & Policy Manual

- I. **THE DEACON AND DOCTRINE**, I Tim. 3:8,9, *“holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience.”*
 - A. Deacons must possess a basic understanding of the fullness of the Christian faith as it focuses on Christ Himself. i.e. *“the mystery of the faith.”*
 1. Office in the Church represents Christ in His offices.
 2. The office is meaningless apart from the faith. The faith guides what is done through the office. The office presents the faith, e.g. Stephen, Phillip.
 - B. This understanding must have become a part of the man, usually through time and experience coupled with regular feeding of the mind, i.e. *“holding the mystery of the faith.”*
 - C. It must be an understanding which inhabits a man who is truly *God’s man*, i.e. *“in a pure conscience.”*
Cf. I Peter 3:16-21.
- II. **DOCTRINAL PROPOSITIONS WHICH MUST GUIDE THE ONGOING AND DEVELOPING WORK OF A DICACONATE** (Based on various heads of the Westminster Confession of Faith, hereafter WCF)
 - A. (WCF I): There must be a dogged determination to align every diaconal practice with the precepts and directives of Holy Scripture, cf. I:VI, I Tim. 3:16f., I Tim. 3:14f.
 1. Some areas: *How* is mercy to be shown? To whom? To what extent? What are the biblical principles that bear on issues like a church budget, salaries, the church building, areas of diaconal involvement, etc.

2. Necessitates: a. Private study, thought, and prayer. b. Diaconal consultation and intercession. c. Consultation with the session.
- B. (WCF II) There must be a wise, sensitive, and increasingly obvious manifestation of various attributes of God in the work of the diaconate.
1. Redemption: Word & deed. Officers officially represent the words & deeds of the Redeemer. Deacons especially represent His deeds, e.g. Mk. 10:45, "I came not to be deaconed to, but to deacon."
 2. Those diaconal deeds represent God! E.g. God-man = Servant. Deacons are servants. God is father to the fatherless & provider/protector of widows. Deacons do this, too, in the name of Christ.
 3. Other attributes: Holy sovereignty, with all advancing the Kingdom of God; Mercy, cf. Jn. 12:6, Gal. 2:10. Justice, II Thess. 3:10, etc. All have reflections in diaconal work.
- C. (WCF III, V) There must be a wise, healthy, consideration of implications of both divine sovereignty and human agency in many of the more difficult matters deacons will face, cf. III:1, V:1,5.
E.g. Issues re. famine relief in certain regimes, cf. Rev. 6:5f. See James 5:14f, I Cor. 11:30.
NOTE: Always seek counsel from Elders. Need of ongoing communication with them.
- D. (WCF VI) There must be an ever-present consciousness of the curse, sin, its multiple effects, and how best to deal with these.
I.e. Specific sin & the blanket effects of sin, e.g. poverty, needs of elderly & widows, cf. I Tim. 5:8-16.
- E. (WCF VII) There must be an unashamed differentiation in our dealings with those who are inside or outside of the covenant of grace
cf. Deut. 15:1-3, 7-11. Gal. 6:10. See Coppes, WHO WILL LEAD US? pps. 138-149.
1. To Believers: Diaconal ministry is a demonstration of God's promised mercy to the people of God, e.g. Jesus feeding the multitudes.
 2. To Unbelievers: God's goodness shown to them through the diaconate is designed to lead them to repentance, cf. Rom. 2:4. See Coppes, *ibid.* p. 141.
- F. (WCF VI) There must be a constant recognition that every "temporality" given to the diaconate is a trust from God.
Cf. Deut. 8:10, 18, e.g. Finances, building, church possessions, other acquired properties, savings, etc.
- G. (WCF VIII) Deacons must have an increasing appreciation of the person, work, and offices of Christ as the one mediator between man and God, cf. Matt. 16:13-18 (See J. Owen, Vol. 1, "The Divine Glory of Christ", I Tim. 3:15f., cf. vs. 9).
1. Person: Truly God. Truly man. (VIII:2)
 2. Work: Humiliation. Exaltation (VIII:3)
 3. Offices: Prophet. Priest. King.
- Select Bibliography:
William Blaikie: THE PUBLIC MINISTRY OF CHRIST. THE INNER LIFE OF CHRIST.
John Flavel, Vol. 1. THE FOUNTAIN OF LIFE.
Henry Martyn: THE SHADOW OF CALVARY.
John Murray: REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED AND APPLIED
Octavius Winslow: THE GLORY OF THE REDEEMER.
- Note: Ultimately & really, deacons represent and serve Jesus Christ. This is the nature of church office.
Cf. John Sietsma, THE IDEA OF OFFICE, p. 57.
- H. (WCF X – XV) Deacons must cultivate a growing understanding of the way of salvation, and a growing facility in presenting it to others.
E.g. Acts 7 (Stephen); 8:26-35 (Phillip); I Timothy 3:13
1. "Ordo Salutis" (X – XIII), cf. J. Murray, REDEMPTION ACCOMPLISHED AND APPLIED.
NOTE: Special care in understanding justification. Sensitivity to adoption, cf. WCF XII.
 2. Gospel Call: Saving faith (XIV) & Repentance (XV)
NOTE: Deacons will have opportunity to bring the Gospel to others in course of their work.
- I. (WCF XVI) Deacons must be particularly aware of their responsibility to stir up others to good works.

- Cf. Eph. 2:8-10, Heb. 10:24, “paroxusmon”.
1. Nature of Office: Heightened responsibility to do what applies to every believer.
 2. Particular role of diaconal office: Love & good works.
 3. Practical suggestions: a. Delegation. 2. Motivation (vs. mere sympathy). 3. Information.
Cf. Berghoef & DeKoster, DEACONS HANDBOOK, pps. 83-88, 143-146. 4. Communication.
- J. (WCF XVIII) Deacons must give attention to the often deep and complex questions related to the issue of assurance of salvation.
1. Why?
 - a. Reality of Christian experience, esp. in churches that emphasize the necessity of vital/experimental religion, e.g. I Peter 1:5-15.
 - b. Reality of diaconal ministry. Often (usually?!) on unexpected occasions.
 2. How?
 - a. Give due personal attention to the issue of assurance of faith and salvation.
 - b. Give special attention to the benefits of assurance, cf. XVIII:3
 - c. Minister to others those texts and insights that have been most helpful to you, cf. II Cor. 1:3-7.

Select Bibliography:
 William Guthrie, THE CHRISTIAN’S GREAT INTEREST.
 Thomas Brooks, HEAVEN ON EARTH
 Thomas Hooker, THE POOR, DOUBTING CHRISTIAN DRAWN TO CHRIST
- K. (WCF XIX:2,5,6) Deacons have an official responsibility to give special attention to the details of the Old Testament law and to regularly make legitimate application of these to their diaconal labors.
- Cf. Relation to proposition A above.
1. Examples: Tithe (Deut. 14:22-29, etc.); Indebtedness (Deut. 15:1-6); Generosity to the poor (Deut. 15:7-11, etc.). Inheritance questions (Deut. 21:15-17); Usury (Deut. 23:19f.)
Cf. James 1:27, Deut. 14:29. I Cor. 9:9-11.
 2. The “Theonomy” Question, cf. G. Bahnsen, R. Rushdoony, etc.
NOTE: Importance of considering these questions jointly with the Elders.
- L. (WCF XXI:8) Deacons should be especially sensitive to ways in which works of mercy can be done on the Sabbath.
1. Diaconal Works & the Sabbath, e.g. Mk. 2:23-28, 3:1-5, etc. Official leadership here, as with Christ.
 2. Practical Suggestions: Visits and tapes to shut-ins, nursing home ministries, food & hospitality to visitors, needy, etc. This should be led by the deacons.
NOTE: This is one of the most neglected aspects of Sabbath keeping in the Reformed community.
- M. (WCF XXV:3) No view of the diaconate and its work may ever be permitted to blur the ministry of the Word as the distinct and primary work of the church, cf. Acts 6:2-4.
1. Warning: Errors of “equal primacy of preaching & deaconing”; deacons as social workers representing the Church, etc.
NOTE: Be careful to preserve the distinction between what deacons do as a diaconate and what Church members do individually and in concert with others, e.g. Crisis pregnancy centers, Christian schools, Christian labor unions, etc.
 2. Encouragement: Effective diaconal work encouraging the primacy of ministry of the Word *will* result in increased biblical diaconal work to an expanded church, cf. Acts 6:7
- N. (WCF XXV:2) Deacons must be aware of the true population of the church they are called out to serve, and their correct responsibility to each particular member or family.
1. Diaconal responsibility focuses on the Church, cf. Acts 6:1, Gal. 6:10.
 2. Categories of “Church” to which deacons are responsible: Poor, widows, orphans, elders. Also, church needs beyond the local level, e.g. presbytery, denominationally, internationally through church connections, etc.
NOTE: Always keep proper spheres of responsibility in mind, e.g. extended families, local churches, etc.

- O. (WCF XXVI, esp. sections 1,2) The application of our confessional doctrine of “The Communion of the Saints” should be a specific study and burden of the diaconate.
1. Language of Obligation, cf. I Thess. 5:14, I Jn. 3:16-18, II Cor. 8,9, etc.
 2. Extent of concern, cf. XXVI:2b, II Cor. 8,9.
 3. Elements necessary for this: a. Conviction of responsibility. b.. Determination to work at it. c. Prayerful wisdom and creativity. d. Patience!
- P. (WCF XXXII, XXXIII) Deacons ought to have clear, experimentally cultivated views of man’s eternal state and of the judgment to come.
1. Why? Ministry to comfort saints and to warn sinners is inevitable for deacons. *Evangelistic work of deacons.
 2. How? Meditation, cf. II Cor. 5:11. Make use of items like S. Rutherford’s Letters, R. Baxter’s THE SAINT’S EVERLASTING REST, sermons by J. Edwards, etc.

III. THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR A DEACON:

- A. Macroscopic View, Acts 6:3
1. “Good reputation” (“martus”): Legal import, i.e. “credible witness.” Trustworthy.
 2. “Full of the Holy Spirit”: Godly; Representing the One filled with the Holy Spirit beyond measure, cf. Jn. 3:34. One clothed with the character of Christ.
 3. “(Full of) wisdom”: Ability to APPLY truth and godly insight in day to day life.
- B. Microscopic View, I Tim. 3:8-13
- “Likewise”, i.e. “Likewise deacons MUST, cf. vs. 2: Non-optional qualifications. *If this is disregarded by the congregation it is no less a denial of Christ’s authority than a denial of the necessity of the new birth, cf. Jn. 3:7.
1. “Reverent” (“semnous”): Umbrella characteristic. Honorable, dignified, courteous. Commanding respect and trust.
 2. “Not double-tongued: (“di-logous”) e.g. “Forked tongue.” Making commitments he is unwilling or unable to keep. One who is trustworthy and dependable. “His yes is yes!”
 3. “Not given to much wine”, e.g. Mediterranean customs of hospitality included giving wine to guests. Must be manifestly self-controlled. Ill discipline in one area is indicator of ill discipline in other areas.
 4. “Not greedy for money.” Not obsessed with material gain. Weakness in this area could create distrust in those who know the deacon handles funds. It can also bring an analogous attitude toward regarding temporalities in the church, ie Empire building or stinginess vs. liberality.
NOTE: Constant need to balance sobriety with a benevolent spirit.
 5. “Holding the mystery of the faith, cf. I *& II above, with a pure conscience”, cf. 4:2, I Peter 3:13-17. I.e. One who does what is right regardless of the cost. One who does not give in to wrongdoing, knowing the cost. (Emphasize the importance of a pure conscience!)
 6. “Tested”: Passed the test, cf. Rom. 12:1,2. cf. Directive #3, C (below)
NOTE: The “provenness” comes first, not afterward!
 7. “Women/wives”: Not “deaconesses”. Probably: Wife of deacons, cf. vss. 2, 12. Or: Women who assist deacons, i.e. unordained deaconesses.
 - a. “Reverent”: Commanding respect, cf. #1 above.
 - b. “Not slanderers”, i.e. Not “devils” (!), ie Malicious gossips, cf. Titus 2:3.
 - c. “Temperate”: Sober. Moderate. Careful. Both feet firmly planted on the ground!
 - d. “Faithful in all things”: Truly godly person. Woman who represents the faithfulness of Christ, the Faithful One.
 8. Domestic Qualifications:
 - a. “One wife husband”: Not a playboy. No doubt about his faithfulness to his wife (if he is married) Remember that deacons have a special responsibility to minister to widows, including young widows. Great danger of temptation here.
 - b. “Ruling children will” (“proistemi”): 1) To put one’s self before; lead. 2) Care for: Caring leadership of children. The deacon manages his house with this concern in view.
 - c. “Manages his own household well.”: Including his wife! All is in order, e.g. Bills are paid, biblical priorities, godly home management.
NOTE: This is what deacons must provide for the church, “the household of God.”

- C. Basic Directives for Cultivating These Qualifications:
1. Diligence and regularity in exercises which develop personal piety.
 2. Serious attention to the breadth of duties connected with home management.
NOTE: Home is nursery of the church. Officers are outstanding nurserymen.
 3. Natural demonstration of these qualifications in the context of corporate church life.
NOTE: You do not make yourself a deacon. Neither does the Church. The Church must recognize the Deacon that Christ is making you.

IV. THE DEACON AS AN OFFICER: GENERAL CONSIDERATIONS

- A. The Biblical Backdrop: Acts 6:1-7 (I am presupposing that this is the origin of the diaconal office.)
i.e. This is “stage setting” for the “furniture (tables!) of present diaconal service.
1. The diaconate grew up out of the soil of practical necessity in the life of the early Christian church.
cf. vs. 1a. The Church was growing! cf. Situation in which OT eldership/judges began, Ex. 18.
 2. The terrain was affected, frankly, by some of the most banal, aggravating effects of the curse, vs. 1b.
i.e. This is the real world of church life & diaconal work!
 3. The diaconate originated for the purpose of relieving the other group of officers of certain “delegatable” official responsibilities so that what is primary in the church might be maintained, vss. 2,4. cf. “It is not pleasing/desirable”. Not: “It is wrong.”
NOTE: Never forget the primacy of the ministered Word of God in the Church, cf. Jn. 17:17, Rom. 3:2, I Tim. 5:17, I Tim. 3:15, 4:6, 11, 13-16, II Tim. 1:13f., 2:15, 3:14-17, 4:1-5, etc.
 4. The diaconate was established as an understood, accepted, and well-received outgrowth of orderly congregational life, vss. 3-5.
 5. Deacons possessed/possess official authority for service in the Kingdom of God, vss. 3b, 6b
i.e. “appoint over this business” (“kathistemi”: seat, authority over; to put in charge)
cf. Matt. 24:45,47; 25:21,23, Heb. 2:7, 8:3.
 - a. Not to be understood as OVER those primarily vested with authority, i.e. Elders/Bishops.
i.e. This is acknowledged by responsibility of deacons to Session.
 - b. Neither to be understood as WITHUOT AUTHORITY to act officially within a given sphere or spheres of responsibility. vs. 3b.
 6. Normally the office carries with it divine blessing appropriate to the effects of conscientiously performed diaconal labor, vs. 7. i.e. Growth of word of God & multiplication of disciples. This came because the primacy of the ministry of the word of God was secured. *The office of the deacon is a standing testimony to this
 - Summary:
 1. This does not detract from the general responsibility of every believer to serve. This type of general Christian service is effectively accomplished by making disciples by the Word of God.
 2. We are dealing with an *office*, i.e. One vested with the authority of Christ specifically to exhibit His servanthood in the Church.
 3. The diaconate is neither a “sub-pastoral function” nor a service that merely provides care for the needy. It is an *office* given charge of any temporality which would otherwise be managed by the Elders.
cf. J. H. Thornwell, COLLECTED WRITINGS, vol. IV, p. 201: “*It must be perfectly obvious to every candid mind that the entire secular business of the Church was entrusted to the Deacons; that one specific duty is mentioned, in accordance with the general method of Scripture, as a specimen of a class, and that the reason of the appointment determines the extent of the duty involved*”
Leon Morris, BAKER’S DICTIONARY OF THEOLOGY, “*The function of (the deacons) may well have been administrative and financial.*”
 4. The purpose of the diaconate: To preserve the primacy of the Word of God ministered in the Church, and (now) the Elder’s work of prayer and the ministry of the Word.
- B. The “Tables” of Actual Contemporary Diaconal Work
1. The Table of the Genuinely Needy Among God’s People, cf. Coppes, pps. 139-154, 105-138.
 - a. Esp. widows & orphans, (cf. Js. 1:27. OT references, e.g. Ex. 22:22, Deut. 10:18), those providentially impoverished (Gal. 2:9f., II Cor. 8,9, etc.), handicapped.

- b. Not to subsidize luxuries, options, etc.

NOTE: This serves to exhibit the Kingdom of Heaven among Christ's people, i.e. showing a Father who provides our needs (*not* our wants!)

2. The Table of the Church as an Organization.

i.e. "Church": Visible instrument through which the Word of God is spread. Something that, in its entirety, is to be "holy unto the Lord", cf. Zech. 14:20f, I Tim. 3:15.

- a. Its physical facilities, cf. I Cor. 10:31, etc.
- b. Its relation to State & Society, cf. Matt. 22:21, II Cor. 8:21.
- c. Its budget, cf. Biblical principles of liberal frugality and faithful reasonableness.
- d. Its public presentation, cf. "Man *does* look on the outward appearance" (I Sam. 16:7)
- e. Its functioning during public meetings for the purpose of stated ministry. e.g. Greeting at door, ushering, preserving order, heating & cooling of building, emergencies, etc.

NOTE: All must work for maximum furthering of Word of God.

3. The Table of the Pastor(s).

- a. Adequate compensation for Minister/Teaching Elder, and consideration of his legitimate ministerial needs. NOTE: This is best done by asking him, and encouraging openness.
- b. Other "temporalities" delegated to them as necessary, e.g. Issues regarding provisions for a minister's housing, provision for his "retirement", medical insurance, etc.)

NOTE: This mandates close interaction with Elders as fellow officers.

4. The Table of the Lord, i.e. "The Lord's Table."

i.e. This serves to epitomize the official relation of the deacons to the stated ministry of the Word. (This is also true with deacons taking up the offering).

- Summary: The work of "official service". Representing the "other side" of the Saviour's work (Matt. 20:28)

cf. J. Owen, WORKS, Vol XVI, p. 147: "*Whereas the reason of the institution of this office was, in general, to free the pastors of the churches who labour in the word and doctrine from avocations by outward things, such as wherein the church is concerned, it belongs unto the deacons not only to take care of and provide for the poor, but to manage all other affairs of the church of the same kind; such as are providing for the place of the church-assemblies, of the elements for the sacraments, of collecting, keeping, and disposing of the stock of the church for the maintenance of its officers and incidences, especially in the time of trouble or persecution. Hereon are they obliged to attend the elders on all occasions, to perform the duty of the church towards them, and receive directions from them. This was the constant practice of the church in the primitive times, until the avarice and ambition of the superior clergy enclosed all alms and donations unto themselves.*"

V. THE DEACON: DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY, YEARLY

NOTE: You are first a *man*, not first a *deacon*, cf. Acts 6:3. Beware of officiousness/lordliness.

A. Daily:

1. Give habitual attentiveness to your personal communion with God and growth in grace, e.g. Bible reading, devotional reading, prayer. You must not leave your first love, cf. Rev. 2:4.
NOTE: This is necessary to keep you pliable in the hand of your Master.
2. Cultivate a "diaconal mindedness" before God and your fellow man.
 - a. *Before God*: Especially prayer for the church and its members over whom you have specific responsibilities. This brings a reciprocal effect: It encourages your overall diaconal ministry with and to them.
 - b. *Before Man*: Sensitivity to human situations. Holy meditation concerning how to deal with them.
NOTE: Seek, under Christ, to be a master of the "How", e.g. Good Samaritan, Lk. 10:25-37.
 - Summary: Your "daily distribution", cf. Acts 6:1, must be as constantly in mind as is the ministry of the Word. Carry it about as a burden of your heart.

B. Weekly: Your involvement in regular congregational life...

1. Lord's Day meetings: The most heightened and obvious manifestation of diaconal ministry, because this time is the most heightened and obvious manifestation of the ministry of the Word.
 - a. *Before Worship*: Lighting, heating, cooling, sound system, setting up for Lord's Supper and/or baptism, general appearance of the building, ushering, urging silence before worship, etc.
 - b. *During Worship*. Offering, being prepared for emergencies, knowing how to deal with any disruptions that may come, e.g. crying babies.. Nursery. Heating & cooling, etc.

- c. *Following Worship*: Counting offering and being sure it gets to Treasurer, lighting off, general tidiness, locking doors, etc.
NOTE: Never forget role and authority of the deacon, particularly at this time.
 - 2. The Prayer Meeting:
 - a. Be sensitive to expressions of personal and congregational concerns bearing on the work of the deacons, e.g. Illnesses, financial difficulties, etc.
 - b. Be sensitive to expressions of possible diaconal matters beyond the local level, e.g. Ministers in distress, etc.
 - 3. Periodic Evening Labors, e.g. Committee meetings, visits to needy, hospital visits, work at building.
 - 4. Other Worthwhile Projects.
 - a. Be careful not to over-extend yourself. Keep priorities of service: Family, Church, Other projects.
 - b. Give continual consideration of your gifts and present needs. Seek your greatest usefulness, cf. Matt. 25:14-30. e.g. Service on Presbytery & GA level.
- C. Monthly:
- 1. Attend the Board of Deacon's meeting, and come prepared for what is to be done.
 - a. Importance of minutes properly taken and recorded.
 - b. Importance of a docket/agenda, possibly presented in advance on paper. Keep this standard, but functional, cf. Robert's Rules of Order re. Agendas for business meetings.
 - c. Importance of motions, thorough discussion, consensus/vote, carrying through on decisions made.
 - d. Wisdom of taking your time! cf. Prov. 19:2, "It is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.")
 - 2. Never be reluctant to consult with the Session: Free, regular communications with Elders, cf. Like communication between husband and wife regarding their children!
cf. FG, OPC, XI:5. OPC Franklin Square Deacon's Manual, pps. 7,8.
 - 3. Do not permit material concerns to gradually eliminate personal concerns.
 - a. Purpose of diaconal work: Relieve elders. Focus is on *personal* provisions.
 - b. Suggestions: Ask elders: "How can we be of help?" Give them time to consider and answer. Be sensitive to needs beyond the local level, cf. II Cor. 8,9, esp. 8:14.
 - 4. Allow no tolerance for questionable, dishonest, or sloppy financial and legal practices. e.g. Financial reports, payment of bills, complying with codes, etc. cf. II Cor. 8:21.
 - 5. Remember: You have an increasingly committed congregation with which to work.
 - a. Make mental and/or written notes of needs, gifts, people. Link them up! Do assessments. Develop and use committees as necessary, e.g. Committee to work particularly with the elderly.
 - b. Never forget: "Church" is people ...not programs!
 - 6. An increasingly prominent project: Information to encourage liberality by the congregation.
e.g. Report on Lord's Supper Sundays, Bulletin announcements/inserts, prayer meeting, newsletter, etc. i.e. Work to see the spirit of II Cor. 8,9 increasingly present in the congregation.
- D. Yearly:
- 1. Review Form of Government, church By Laws, Deacon's Manual, Training Class notes, other relevant materials. i.e. A stirred pool cannot grow stagnant and usually will not get polluted!
NOTE: Share what you read & learn. Practice diaconal cross-pollenization.
 - 2. Importance of self-assessment, goal-setting, and planning.
 - a. *Self-assessment*: Regarding your past performance individually as a deacon and corporately as a board.
 - b. *Goal-setting*: 1 yr. 3 yr. 5 yr. 10 yr. esp. re. temporal concerns, e.g. building improvements. e.g. Work days, capitol improvements, major renovations, manse improvements, etc. Be sure to include planning, i.e. 'How do we get there from here?' Use committees where that is necessary, appropriate, and helpful.
 - 3. Be wisely frank with congregational reports.
 - 4. Elect officers, e.g., President, Secretary, Treasurer. Be clear as to their responsibilities (These should be presented in church by laws.)

***SOME PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR THOSE MEN CONSIDERING THE OFFICE OF
DEACON:***

(Based on material in Acts 6:3 & I Timothy 3:8-13)

1. Do I regard myself as having a good testimony as a Christian, a Christian husband, a Christian father, a Christian church member, a Christian worker, and a Christian neighbor?
2. Do I manifest the marks of godliness that are an evidence of being “full of the Holy Spirit”? Is “reverence” a primary mark of my character?
3. Do I possess the sanctified “horse sense” to apply my Christian faith to day by day matters of problem solving, stewardship, and interpersonal relations?
4. When I make a promise, do I keep it? Am I able to keep personal matters in confidence? Is my wife able to do the same?
5. Am I given to excess in any area of life? e.g. Alcohol, eating. spending, television or computer use, etc?
6. Am I a “lover of money”, or do I use my earthly possessions as a steward so that I might honor God and serve others generously?
7. Do I have a pure conscience before God?
8. When I am given a task, do I fulfill the work to the best of my ability? Do I enjoy serving others? Am I willing to take on necessary tasks that I even regard as unpleasant?
9. Does my wife have a good Christian testimony, i.e. Is my wife known for her reverence, careful speech, moderation, and faithfulness in all things?
10. Am I marked by absolute loyalty to my wife, so that I can honestly say I am a “one wife husband”? Am I a *good* husband to my wife?
11. Do I rule my children and my house well? Do I take the necessary time and make the necessary decisions and actions to do so?
12. Am I willing to take and make the necessary time to serve conscientiously as a deacon?

**WILHEMUS A BRAKEL ON THE NATURE OF THE DIACONAL OFFICE:
(From *OUR REASONABLE SERVICE*, Chapt. 28)**

The third office which God has instituted in His church is the *deaconry*. The deaconry pertains to an office in the church, distinct from the offices of elders and ministers, which has as its purpose *to support the poor in the congregation in their physical needs*. Since God gathers His church primarily from among the poor, there will always be poor persons in the church. “For the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land” (Deut. 15:11). This gives opportunity to those *with means* to demonstrate their generosity, and for the *poor* to acknowledge the Lord’s providence regarding them and to be thankful. It could readily occur that several poor members, unknown to those members with means, would thus be neglected, perish due to want, or be forced to beg—which would be a matter of shame to the church. It can therefore easily be seen that it is needful that there be some whose work it is to have oversight over the poor. It has therefore also pleased the Lord to institute such an office in the church. Concerning this office we must note the calling, the required qualifications, and the task itself.

The Deaconry: A Divine Institution

First, it is evident that the Lord has instituted such an office, for we read in Acts 6:3, “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.”

Secondly, the deaconry was not only intended for that era, when due to urgent circumstances all goods were brought together and the church lived from one common purse. Rather, since the poor will never be absent in the church, the deaconry must continue at all times. In the congregation at Rome there were also deacons, to whom the apostle said, “He that giveth, let him do it with simplicity” (Rom. 12:8). He also wrote to the deacons in Philippi: “...with the bishops and deacons” (Phil. 1:1). In 1 Timothy 3 he instructs Timothy concerning what manner of men deacons must be, thereby confirming that the deaconry is a divine institution.

Since the deaconry is a divine institution in the church and for the church, deacons must be chosen by the church. This must either be done by all the brethren or by the representatives of the church—her elders—and not by the civil government. It was done in this manner in Acts 6. The apostle insists that deacons must first be proved, and after this are to serve (1 Tim. 3:10). Such probation and subsequent service implies an election. This is emphatically stated in the form for the installation of deacons. *“And in the first place I ask you, both elders and deacons, whether you do not feel in your hearts, that ye are lawfully called of God’s church, and consequently of God Himself, to these your respective offices?”* Since deacons are intended for the church, it is not fitting that they distribute alms to those outside the church, and thus mix the gifts of the church with the common provision for the poor, for:

- (1) this is contrary to the purpose and objective of the office.
- (2) Such a practice subtly promotes the mixing of the church with those who are without, as it treats all the poor as being equal; the church, however, must obviously be separate in all things.

(3) This will impede the generosity of many, for their gifts would then not be distributed in harmony with their objective.

(4) It would be to the disadvantage of the poor in the church, who otherwise could be supported in a much more abundant measure.

(5) It confirms papists and others in their errors and ungodly life, since they receive support regardless.

(6) It robs the church of its holy radiance. Such radiance would be all the more evident if the deacons, due to an abundance of funds, would manifest voluntary generosity to some individuals outside of the church.

The Qualifications of a Deacon

The apostle describes the required qualifications for deacons. “Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre; holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well” (1 Tim. 3:8–9, 12). Add to this all the virtues they must have as Christians in order to be examples to others. They must especially manifest those virtues which flow out of the virtue of generosity.

(1) They must manifest *compassion*: “Having compassion” (1 Pet. 3:8). The burden of the poor must so weigh upon them, as if they themselves were afflicted with it. They may neither be rude nor proud, nor may they snarl at them as if they had dogs or enemies before them.

(2) They must be *merciful*, which is a kindness causing one to be inclined to help another. “Blessed are the merciful” (Matt. 5:7); “Be ye therefore merciful” (Luke 6:36); “Be pitiful” (1 Pet. 3:8). The opposite behavior would be to shut one’s heart, to harden oneself toward the poor, not giving them anything, or if, out of a sense of shame or for any other reason one must give, he then gives it in such a manner as if he were casting a piece of bread to a dog.

(3) As a father cares for his children, they must be *careful and concerned* as to how the poor can manage their affairs, have enough to live, and thus be able to thank the Lord. “I was eyes to the blind, and feet was I to the lame. I was a father to the poor” (Job 29:15–16).

(4) They must be *cheerful and friendly*. “...he that showeth mercy, with cheerfulness” (Rom. 12:8); “Be pitiful, be courteous” (1 Pet. 3:8). They must be of a friendly disposition. A kind word and a friendly countenance are most refreshing for the poor, who due to their poverty are dejected. A grim countenance and a harsh word, however, cut through their soul.

The work of deacons pertains to the collection and distribution of monies, as well as to caring for the souls of the poor.

First, they must *collect*. They must do so in cooperation with the ministers and the elders, who together must superintend both the poor as well as those who have means. For the office of the ministry includes the offices of elder and deacon, and the office of elder includes the office of deacon. I repeat, deacons must consult with them to determine where sufficient means will be obtained, but also to be diligent in providing in situations of which they are aware.

Secondly, they must *distribute*. In distributing funds they must use wisdom and caution, seeing to it that they do not give thoughtlessly. They must give most to those who have the greatest need, and less to those who are lazy and waste that which has been given to them, in order to teach them to work and to be frugal. Orphans, the aged, the sick, or mothers who have given

birth each require a different approach. Those who are to blame for their poverty and who are capable of working must again be treated differently. This is also true for those who, due to a handicap, cannot work, even though they are healthy. It is again different with those who would rather perish from hunger with their families (which is a sin), than to allow it to be known that they are receiving something from the deaconry. A different approach is also needed for those who would be reduced to poverty unless some monetary help be given to them enabling them to remain solvent. Much wisdom is needed to clearly discern time, manner, and circumstances in making these decisions.

Thirdly, the deacons must also *care for the souls* of their poor, for they are as fathers to them; and whatever one member is obligated to do to another, they must excel in doing to those over whom the Lord has placed them.

(1) They must instruct the ignorant, and bring them to the church services and to catechism instruction.

(2) They must exhort, rebuke, and comfort according to individual circumstances.

(3) They must visit the sick, either preparing their souls for the hour of death, or exhorting them to increase in godliness if they may again become healthy.

In doing so they will “purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus” (1 Tim. 3:13). They will be an ornament to the church, being enabled to be of more benefit to the church than before. Their gifts and graces will be increased as well. Among all the offices there is not one office which is more burdensome and detrimental to the body than the deaconship. It therefore frequently amazes me and gives me cause for rejoicing that the Lord gives the deacons such willingness and zeal, a fact which is generally true in the Netherlands. Upon receiving rich gifts they are as happy as if they had received them themselves. It does not trouble them to be engaged in their task until late in the evening. In no meeting is there generally more order, more unity, and more faithfulness than among the deacons. The Lord also rewards them, giving them honor and respect, and frequently grants that their own circumstances improve rather than deteriorate.¹

¹la Brakel, Wilhelmus, Th.F., *The Christian's Reasonable Service, Volumes I and II*, (Escondido, CA: Ephesians Four Group) 1999.

THE 21 INDISPENSABLE QUALITIES OF A LEADER

I have found John C. Maxwell's book THE 21 INDISPENSABLE QUALITIES OF A LEADER to be very useful for myself and also for my work with interns. In most cases Maxwell builds on basic Christian principles. He frequently cites Christian writers or makes reference to Christians whom he regards as models of leadership. I have listed the 21 qualities he presents in this 21 short chapter volume, together with relevant Scriptures portions and excerpts from the chapters. In some cases, I have modified Maxwell's material or added some of my own (especially the "Christianized" definitions of the leadership qualities themselves). Maxwell's companion volume is THE 21 IRREFUTABLE LAWS OF LEADERSHIP.

- 1. CHARACTER:** *In all things representing the character of God in Christ.*
Text: "Imitate me, just as also I imitate Christ" (I Cor. 11:1)
"Leadership is the capacity and will to rally men and women to a common purpose; and (it is) the character which inspires confidence" (Bernard Montgomery)
What destroys character: Arrogance. Aloneness. Adventure-seeking. Adultery.
Tips:

 - Keep a pure conscience before God and man.
 - Ask forgiveness for what you must. Don't substitute apologies.

"Real character is being bigger on the inside." (Maxwell)
- 2. CHARISMA:** *In all things representing the love of God in Christ.*
Text: "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres, love never fails." (I Cor. 13:4-8)
What destroys charisma: Pride. Insecurity. Moodiness. Perfectionism. Cynicism.
Tips:

 - Enjoy life! Enter into God's delight in His word and all His works.
 - Really appreciate others. Express your appreciation.
 - Give people hope. You represent the God of hope.
 - Give yourself. True love is giving yourself for the good of others.

"Make your agenda to focus on others, not yourself." (Maxwell)
- 3. COMMITMENT:** *In all things representing the commitments of God in Christ.*
Text: "Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not to men." (Col. 3:23)
Tips:

 - Commitment starts with a heart that stays close to Christ.
 - Know what's worth dying for.
 - Be an all-out: Set biblical goals, commit to them, and pay that price to reach them. Cross bearing is paying the price, no matter what the cost.

4. **COMMUNICATION:** *In all things representing the God who communicates supremely in Christ.*

Text: “And the common people heard him gladly.” (Mark 12:37)

“The leader must be able to share knowledge and ideas to transmit a sense of urgency and enthusiasm to others. If a leader can’t get a message across clearly and motivate others to act on it, then having a message doesn’t even matter.”
(Gilbert Amelio)

Tips:

- Communication is not just what you say, but how you say it.
- Keep it simple. “Be clear! Be clear! Be clear!”
- Effective communicators focus on the people to whom they are communicating.
- Believe what you say! Live what you say!
- The goal of all communication is action.
- Love for God and those to whom you are communicating enables you to communicate as you should.

“People will not follow you if they do not know what you want or where you are going.” (Maxwell)

5. **COMPETENCE:** *In all things representing the competence of God in Christ.*

Text: “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed...” (II Timothy 2:15)

Tips:

- Show up every day.
- Keep improving.
- Follow through with excellence.
- Accomplish more than expected.

6. **COURAGE:** *In all things represent the courage of God in Christ.*

Text: “Father, if it is your will, take this cup away from me; nevertheless, not my will, but Yours be done.” (Luke 22:42)

Tips:

- Courage begins with an inward battle. Courage is not an absence of fear. It is doing what you *must* do even when you are afraid to do it.
- Courage is making things right, not smoothing things over.
- Courage in a leader inspires confidence in his followers.
- Your life (and ministry) will expand in proportion to your courage.

“You must do the things you think you cannot do.” (Maxwell)

7. **DISCERNMENT:** *In all things demonstrating the mind of God in Christ.*

- Text: “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, *which is* your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what *is* that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” (Romans 12:1,2)

Tips:

- Discover root issues.
- Work at being a problem-solver.
- Really evaluate the different options.
- Multiply your opportunities.
- As you grow, don't be afraid to "trust your gut."

8. **FOCUS:** *In all things representing the focus of God in Christ.*

Text: "...I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I will not be ashamed." (Isaiah 50:7)

Tips:

- Establish priorities. Concentrate on them. Remind yourself of them regularly.
- Know your strengths.
- Develop your strengths. Work on your weaknesses.

Exercise: Develop a plan for a simpler and more focused church "program" in the church you are called to pastor.

9. **GENEROSITY:** *In all things representing the generosity of God in Christ.*

Text: "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it." (Mark 8:35)

Tips:

- Don't allow desires for possessions to control you.
- Develop the *habit* of giving.

"Just the very act of letting go of money, or some other treasure, does something in us. It destroys the demon (of) greed." (Richard Foster)

"Nothing speaks more loudly or serves them better than generosity from a leader." (Maxwell)

10. **INITIATIVE:** *In all things representing the initiative of God in Christ.*

Text: "For Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus, so that he would not have to spend time in Asia; for he was hurrying to be at Jerusalem, if possible, on the Day of Pentecost." (Acts 20:16)

Tips:

- Know what God wants. Make it your want.
- Push yourself to act!
- Don't be afraid to take risks.
- Don't be afraid to make mistakes (but: learn from them).

"Only those who dare to fail greatly can ever achieve greatly." (Robert Kennedy)

11. **LISTENING:** *In all things representing the way God in Christ listens to those who call upon Him.*

Text: "Let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak..." (James 1:19)

Tips: Listen to:

- God.

- Your wife.
- Your fellow officers.
- Your congregation members.
- Others whom God is using (even when you have differences with them).
- Competent mentors. *Find at least one!

“To connect with their hearts, use your ears.” (Maxwell)

12. PASSION: *In all things representing the passion of God in Christ.*

Text: “...zeal for your house has eaten me up...” (Psalm 69:29, cf. John 2:17)

Tips:

- Really love your calling and your work.
- Keep your heart close to the passion of God revealed in His word.
- Associate with people of passion.

Suggestion: Read John Piper’s DESIRING GOD, and related works by the same author.

“When a leader reaches out in passion, he is usually met with an answering passion.” (Maxwell)

NOTE: This takes time in a cynical society. Genuine passion is hard for people to believe!

13. POSITIVE ATTITUDE, i.e. FAITH: *In all things live out of confidence in the promises of God in Christ.*

Texts: “According to your faith be it unto you.” (Matthew 9:29)

“Now He did not do many mighty works there because of their unbelief.” (Matthew 13:58)

Tips:

- Your attitude is a choice. Don’t succumb to pessimism or cynicism.
- Your attitude determines your actions.
- The people you minister to will mirror your attitude.
- Maintaining a good attitude is easier than regaining one. Stay close to God, whose attitude is always right!

14. PROBLEM SOLVING: *In all things representing the great problem solver: God in Jesus Christ.*

Text: “Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill brought low; the crooked places shall be made straight, and the rough places smooth.” (Isaiah 40:4)

Tips:

- Anticipate problems. They *will* come!
- Accept the truth.
- Step back! Look at the big picture. Ask what God is doing through and in the problem..
- Handle one thing at a time. Problems are like knots in a ball of string.
- Don’t give up when you’re down.
- Learn from others who are good problem-solvers.

- Remember: To the Christian, every problem is really an opportunity!

15. RELATIONSHIPS: *In all things representing the reconciling God in Jesus Christ.*

Text: “If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men.” (Romans 12:18)

Tips:

- Treat all people as individuals made in God’s image. If they are Christians, they are also your brother or your sister (in Christ).
- Have the Great Leader’s heart: Really love people.
- Have the Great Leader’s hands and feet: Help people.
- Always be reconciled to those you have offended. (Remember Matthew 5:23f.)

“People don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.” (Maxwell)

16. RESPONSIBILITY: *In all things representing the persevering perfection of God in Christ.*

Text: “And say to Archippus, “Take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it.”” (Colossians 4:17)

Tips:

- Get the job done.
- Go the extra mile.
- Be driven by excellence.
- Produce: Regardless of the situation!

17. SECURITY: *In all things representing the secure position of God in Christ.*

Text: “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us...” (Colossians 4:17)

Tips:

- Be secure in your standing before God in Christ.
- Be secure in your calling as a minister.
- Be secure in letting *others* get credit.

“Nothing is a greater impediment to being on good terms with others than being ill at ease with yourself.” (Honoré de Balzac)

18. SELF-DISCIPLINE: *In all things representing the self-discipline of God in Christ.*

Text: “You, therefore, must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.” (II Timothy 2:3)

Tips:

- Make a disciplined lifestyle your goal. (Remember I Timothy 4:7b. Models: Soldier, athlete, farmer, II Timothy 2:4-7)
- Challenge your excuses.
- Develop and keep your priorities, even as you keep a holy flexibility.

“A man without decision of character can never be said to belong to himself (or to God, WS)...He belongs to whatever can make capture of him..” (John Foster)

- 19. SERVANTHOOD:** *In all things representing the servanthood of God in Christ.*
Text: “And He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “If anyone desires to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”” (Mark 9:35)
Tips (quoting Maxwell):
- Stop lording over people, and start listening to them.
 - Stop role-playing for advancement, and start risking for others’ benefit.
 - Stop seeking your own way, and start serving others.
- “If you want to lead on the highest level, be willing to serve on the lowest.”*
(Maxwell)
- 20. TEACHABILITY:** *In all things representing one who is teachable before God in Christ.*
Text: *“Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.”* (I Peter 5:5)
Tips:
- Learn to listen to and learn from those around you, especially your fellow elders.
 - Observe how you react to mistakes. Keep a humble frame at all times and in all situations.
 - Keep learning. Keep growing. “Let your progress be evident to all.” (I Timothy 4:15)
- “As long as you’re green, you’re growing. As soon as you’re ripe, you start to rot.”* (Ray Kroc)
- 21. VISION:** *In all things representing the boundless vision of God in Christ.*
Text: *“I could wish that you were cold or hot.”* (Revelation 3:15)
Tips:
- Stay close to the God of boundless vision.
 - Take time to write down your vision for your life and for the ministry given to you.
 - Beware of getting into the rut of the status quo in any area of your life or ministry. Remember: *Semper reformanda!*
- “Believe great things of God. Expect great things from God. Attempt great things for God.”* (William Carey)

Rev. Craig Troxel



“The Deacon and His Congregation”

Dr. Craig Troxel serves as Professor of Practical Theology at Westminster Seminary California. He has served on the Committee on Christian Education (CCE) since 2002 and was named president of the CCE in 2019. He was ordained as a Gospel minister in the Orthodox Presbyterian Church and installed as the pastor of Calvary OPC, Glenside, PA in 1995. Then in 2007 he accepted a call to Bethel Presbyterian Church in Wheaton, IL. In 2015 he served as moderator of the Eighty-First General Assembly meeting at Kuyper College in Grand Rapids, MI. Dr. Troxel has published numerous articles in publications such as *Westminster Theological Journal*, *Presbyterion*, *Fides et Historia*, *Calvin Theological Journal*, *Trinity Journal* as well as *New Horizons*, *Ordained Servant* and *Modern Reformation*. He is the author of *What is Man?* and *What is the Priesthood of Believers?* (P&R), and most recently, *With All Your Heart: Orienting Your Mind, Desires, and Will Toward Christ* (Crossway).

Born and raised in Kearney, NB, Pastor Troxel attended Anderson University, where he played on the football team and graduated with a BA in 1984. He then served as an associate pastor at Community Church of God in Wasilla, AK, and as the interim pastor of Fairhill Community Church of God in Fairbanks, AK. In 1987 he enrolled at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. Having become theologically Reformed in conviction, Craig then entered PhD studies at Westminster Seminary. He earned his PhD in Systematic Theology with an emphasis upon ecclesiology in 1998. Dr. Troxel and his wife, Carol, have five children and one grandchild.

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Conf. 26: OF THE COMMUNION OF SAINTS

- 1 All saints that are united to Jesus Christ their Head by His Spirit and by faith, have fellowship with Him in His graces, sufferings, death, resurrection, and glory: and, being united to one another in love, they have communion in each other's gifts and graces, and are obliged to the performance of such duties, public and private, as do conduce to their mutual good, both in the inward and outward man.

 - 2 Saints by profession are bound to maintain a holy fellowship and communion in the worship of God; and in performing such other spiritual services as tend to their mutual edification; as also in relieving each other in outward things, according to their several abilities, and necessities. Which communion, as God offereth opportunity, is to be extended unto all those who, in every place, call upon the name of the Lord Jesus.
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- I. Is the Church a Mere Community or a Communion of Saints?
 - A. Historical Understanding
 - B. Contemporary Understanding

- II. Where Does the Church Gain Its Life?
 - A. Our Communion with God (Vertical)
 - B. Our Communion with One Another (Horizontal)

- III. How Does the Church Express Its Communion?
 - A. Inwardly
 - B. Outwardly
 - C. Spiritually

I. Whom shall we serve?

a. *Strangers*

b. *Neighbors*

c. *Friends*

d. *Family*

II. How shall we serve?

a. *Meet*

b. *Learn*

c. *Engage*

d. *Welcome*

Conclusion: A Haven Not a Fortress



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