

Notes on regional deacons

John (Diocese of New Westminster)

Process by congregations to determine if they are vital and sustainable.

Morphed in to regions and deaneries doing same process

New structure of regions to share resources and clergy

Bishop and John received a letter from deacons (9) that they would like the ability to remain rooted in parishes and have freedom to act regionally.

Peter (Diocese of Newark)

Deacon has been given permission to serve other churches in geographic area. All churches know that he will work with the different churches.

Concerns are these: need some policy so that we don't deteriorate into chaos; how do parishes continue to benefit from the iconic value of the deacon.

Douglas (Diocese of Southern Ohio)

Explained new idea from DSO that deacons present a proposal that is communicated out across the diocese and any congregation or organization can respond and enter into a mutual agreement about that ministry. The same is true for the congregations and orgs and bishop: they can propose a ministry that any deacon can respond to. All parties work to come to a mutually agreed upon agreement that is time limited and specific goals. Deacons continue to be based in a "home church" where they serve liturgically.

Peter —LoA based on mutual agreement between deacon, parish and bishop. He has an application that congregation fills out to say why they want a deacon and how they will use the deacon. The deacon does the same thing for his/her skills. Arch begins together those that seem to match and begin a conversation. Sometimes the conversation doesn't turn out right but others it does. Peter assists in development of LoA and then sends to bishop for agreement.

The importance of being visible during liturgy is important...need to figure out how to be both/and for serving in the world and being visible during worship.

What about multiple deacons in a parish when others have none? Doesn't matter. Focus needs to be outside the four walls of church and in the community. Plenty of work to be done. Several deacons in the parish can be a resource for several smaller churches. Another focus is on being a servant leader.