## Qualities for a Deacon

From Bishop Nicholas:

- Faith in Jesus Christ and a call to proclaim the Gospel
- Consistent, demonstrated provision of emotional safety, compassion, and healthy boundaries
- A focus on what ought to be.
- An ability to collaborate and to take leadership of a group as appropriate.
- Creativity and a capacity for problem solving
- A gift for gathering people in community and setting them to a common purpose, that can be sustained over time.
- Ability to work independently when needed.

From *The Book of Common Prayer* ordination vows (see bolded text):

- Willingness to obey the teachings of the Church, the authority of the Bishop, and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work
- Steadfast commitment making Christ's love known through your life and example
- A recognized call to servant ministry, especially among the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely
- An ability to serve as a bridge between the Church and the world, interpreting the needs and hopes of the world to the Church
- Dedication to studying the Holy Scriptures and to modeling your life upon them

*The Bishop says to the ordinand*

Will you be **loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of Christ as this Church** has received them? And will you, in accordance with the canons of this Church, **obey your bishop and other ministers who may have authority over you and your work?**

*Answer*

I am willing and ready to do so; and I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to

salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church.

My *brother*, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a **special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely.**

As a deacon in the Church, you are to **study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them, and to model your life upon them. You are to make Christ and his redemptive love known, by your word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship. You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world. You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments,** and you are to carry out other duties assigned to you from time to time. At all times, your life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself.

My *brother*, do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon?

*Answer* I believe I am so called.

*Bishop* Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility?

*Answer* I do.

*Bishop* Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your bishop?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you do your best to pattern your life [and that of your family, or household, or community] in accordance with the teachings of Christ, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ?

*Answer* I will.

*Bishop* May the Lord by his grace uphold you in the service he lays upon you.

*Answer* Amen.

**House of Bishops list of gifts for ordination** Spring 2026

Gifts for ordination (according to the HoB) in order of preference

1. Obedience
2. Faithful
3. Preach the Gospel
4. Teach
5. Wholesome Example
6. Humility
7. Sacrifice
8. Prayer