

CANON 17 DEACONS

1. The Diaconate is an order of ordained ministry dedicated to serving and enabling others to serve the poor, the sick, the suffering and the lonely and in holding before the Church the needs of the world and interpreting those needs to the Church.
2. Within the Diocese of Ontario there are two expressions of ordained diaconate:
 - a) Transitional deacons, who are candidates for the priesthood and who are involved in a period of formation in service and ministry leading to ordination as a priest;
 - b) Vocational deacons, who have diaconal status within the life of the Church and the world and who would not, in normal circumstances, be considered candidates for the priesthood.
3. There shall be a College of Deacons and all deacons licensed in the Diocese shall be members. There shall be a warden and deputy warden of the College appointed by the Bishop, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Bishop.
4. All deacons are licensed by and directly accountable to the Bishop and to those with whom the Bishop's ministry is shared. The Incumbent or Priest in Charge of the parish where a deacon exercises ministry shall have supervisory and administrative authority, in the name of the Bishop, over the parochial activities of the deacon. If the Incumbent resigns or retires, the deacon shall come under the authority of the Priest in Charge.
5. A Vocational deacon who wishes to resign or retire from the ministry to which they are licensed shall do so in writing to the Bishop. A Vocational deacon who in the judgement of the Bishop is no longer carrying out the ministry to which they are licensed shall be deemed to have resigned. The same retirement policy applies to Vocational Deacons as priests.
6. A deacon who is placed in charge of a parish or mission shall be under the direction of the priest in a neighbouring parish or such other priest appointed by the Bishop.
7. When ordained to the Transitional diaconate, that person and his or her family are eligible to receive the stipend and benefits granted to the clergy.
8. Vocational deacons and their families shall not be entitled to any claim as beneficiaries of any fund held in trust for the benefit of the clergy and their families. Should a vocational deacon be admitted to the Order of Priest, the claim of that deacon and his or her family as beneficiaries upon any such fund shall date from the deacon's ordination to the priesthood.
9. The Bishop shall have the sole authority to approve and issue specific regulations and directives regarding the formation and ministry of deacons in the Diocese.