

PC (USA) Definition

- *“Exhibit within the church and before the world the exemplary moral authority of sympathy, witness and service after the example of Jesus Christ.”*
- *“Care for God’s people in crisis”*
- *Challenge structures and conditions, within the church and within the wider society, which keep persons and groups powerless and voiceless.”*
- *Become liturgical representatives of the church’s presence in the world and the world’s presence in the church.*
- *Develop new forms of leadership at every level of church, community and governing body life.*
- A model of caring

Character and duties of deacons

The office of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of sympathy, witness, and service after the example of Jesus Christ. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, of exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, warm sympathies and sound judgment should be chosen for this office.

It is the duty of deacons, first of all, to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, and to any who may be in distress both within and beyond the community of faith. They shall assume such other duties as may be delegated to them from time to time by the session, such as leading the people in worship through prayers of intercession, reading the Scriptures, presenting the gifts of the people, and assisting with the Lord’s Supper. *Book of Order*, G-6.0401–02

Position Summary

Deacons fulfill and build on the Biblical calling of Luke 10:29-37 serving the needs of those in the congregation and the community with Christ’s love, compassion and mercy. They lead the congregation in ministering to those who are in need, the sick, the friendless and to any who may be in distress. The office of deacon is one of sympathy, witness and service.