

# Deacon's Roles

## In Congregations

If assigned to a parish or mission, each deacon works within the supervision of the congregation's rector, vicar or priest-in-charge, as the case may be.

The deacon should meet regularly with the rector, vicar or priest-in-charge of the parish for mutual review of the deacon's ministry, and for strategic planning. The agreement should be reviewed regularly and, if necessary, updated as necessary with each revision sent to the bishop.

Should a situation of conflict or disagreement arise, the deacon, rector, vicar or priest-in-charge, and any other persons involved are encouraged to arrange face-to-face meetings to clarify the issues and to work toward resolution before contacting the Bishop of jurisdiction.

Family members of a deacon, as with any ordained person, may not serve on the vestry of the parish where the deacon ministers.

## In the World

The deacon, in addition to being a messenger of servanthood and service, helps interpret the needs and concerns of the world to the institutional Church. It may be appropriate for the parish to have a committee to work closely with the deacon on diaconal ministry. The deacon may work with a committee and the vestry to make decisions about outreach funds. If the deacon is given a discretionary fund, it is to be audited annually.

## Speaking to the Church

Because the deacon brings the concerns and needs of the world to the attention of the institutional Church, it is appropriate for the deacon to have a voice in decision making bodies in the diocese and in the parishes and missions of the diocese. The deacon offers a prophetic voice wherever the Church makes decisions.