ORIENTATION & TRAINING

Pastor Stephen A. L. Richardson
CONSIDERATIONS

- Size of congregation
- District churches
- Denominational background
The Seventh-day Adventist Deacon’s and Deaconess’s Handbook

Ministerial Association of the General Conference of SDA
The Seventh-day Adventist Church Manual

General Conference of SDA
The Twenty-First Century Deacon and Deaconess

by Vincent E. White
eldersdigest.org/deacons-and-deaconesses
WEBSITE RESOURCE

visitaec.org
Philippians 1:1  Paul and Timothy, bondservants of Jesus Christ, To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in Philippi, with the bishops and deacons:
Diakonos [διάκονος] / Philippians 1:1 servant; helper, minister; / Rom 16:1-2 Phoebe the deaconess - our sister and church servant

- Origins: challenges of a post-Pentecostal, growing church (thousands of converts)
- Acts 6 - Jewish Christians (Hebrew) and Gentile Christians (Greek)
Our greatest example is Jesus. He came not to be ministered to but to minister.
The original seven deacons were intentionally selected because they knew God and they knew Greek culture; best suited to serve with sensitivity.

AN ORDAINED APPOINTMENT
Acts 6:3  Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;
1 Timothy 3:8-13  Likewise deacons must be reverent, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy for money, 9 holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience. 10 But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons, being found blameless.
Likewise their wives must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a good standing and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.
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<th>QUALIFICATIONS</th>
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<td>1)</td>
<td>Respectable</td>
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<td>Truthful &amp; sincere</td>
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<td>A responsible spouse</td>
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<td>Household management</td>
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PARTNERS IN MINISTRY

• Promote church harmony (discord dishonors God)
• Pastors, elders, deacons & deaconesses complement each other in addressing the needs of the congregation
• Ensure a warm, hospitable atmosphere during the worship service; greeting members and visitors
• Curb appeal
• Tend to repairs: furniture, windows, lighting, plumbing, HVAC systems & infrastructure
• Ensure adequate janitorial service (especially restrooms)
• Safety/Security (parking lots, active shooter, offering, wintry conditions)
• Annual inventory of church property
• Informing the board of anticipated major repairs or maintenance
1. Ensure comfort of baptismal candidates; adequately prepare for those with disabilities (discuss beforehand); separate male/female changing rooms; mirrors, chairs, plastic bags, towels

2. Ensure candidates are informed (what to bring; where to change, etc)

3. Water temperature

4. Face towels

5. Baptismal robes: clean simple style, various sizes, sufficiently dense material, weighted hem
6. Safety measures: handrails, non-slip mats
7. Arrange a private place for the pastor
8. Microphone safety
9. Post-service clean up
10. Robes washed, ironed & stored
• Organize beforehand: assign duties; full rehearsal
• Preparation of emblems: unfermented wine & unleavened bread (menus supplied)
• SDA Church practices open communion (all baptized Christians)
• Separate areas for foot washing: men, women, spouses / equipment & water
FUNERAL SERVICE

- Church preparation & opening
- Assist with gathering place, family viewing & gravesite needs
- Funeral Repast
• Care for poor and emergency needs
• Disaster relief; crisis ministry
• Visitation ministry: hospital & home
• Bereavement ministry
• We serve a God who organizes and places things in order (both heaven & earth)
• The church is the bride of Christ and object of his supreme regard
• A nation w/o organization would be chaos. A business enterprise w/o organization would fail. A church w/o organization would disintegrate and perish.
• Biblical model of the church: organized congregations w/leaders; preaching, teaching & shepherding; apostles, elders, deacons & church councils
• SDA Church organization: local church boards & business meetings; structure
Levels of Organization

The Seventh-day Adventist Church consists of four (4) levels leading from the individual believer to the world-wide organization of the work of the church.
Your Local Church
Columbia Union Conference HQ
North American Division HQ