Deacons at Little River UCC

Deacons in the United Church of Christ fill a vital lay role in the leadership of the local churches. In a broad sense, Deacons provide lay support to the pastors in fulfilling the ministry of the local church.

The role of Deacon has its roots in the days of the early Church when Deacons were persons of high repute appointed to relieve the Disciples of some tasks involved with caring for needs of the followers. Through the years, the role of Deacon has varied as Christian denominations have evolved, but the fundamental aspect of service to the local congregation has remained.

The special calling and stature of Deacons in the United Church of Christ is signified by the fact that Deacons are ordained – the only lay positions installed in that manner. At LRUCC, Deacons are ordained for life.

Duties of Little River’s Board of Deacons are prescribed in the LRUCC Constitution and By-Laws. Specifically, the Deacons assist in worship, promote the concerns of evangelism and fellowship, and are responsible for special care and ministries in the parish. The Board of Deacons executes these responsibilities through the work of the Worship, Evangelism, Fellowship, and Parish Care Committees of the Board. The Board also has a Pastoral Relations Committee that is responsible for dealing with pastoral staffing needs.

Although the Deacons actively serving on the Board are responsible for organizing and executing the Deacons’ responsibilities, the fact that Deacons are ordained for life enables Deacons not currently on the active Board to participate in leadership roles nourishing the spiritual welfare of the Church. Examples of these activities include assisting in Communion services, participation in parish care ministries, or assisting with fellowship opportunities.