

# The Spiritual Office of Deacon

## Introduction

1. The pastoral context at its institution
2. Deacons' ordination to office
3. Deacon's spiritual qualifications for office
4. Deacon's relationship to the ministry of the Word
5. Deacons imitates our Lord Jesus
6. Deacons minister to Christ

## Conclusion

### Church Order of the FRCNA

**Article 25** – *The office peculiar to deacons is diligently to collect moneys and other contributions of charity, and after mutual counsel, faithfully and diligently to distribute the same to the poor as their needs may require it; to visit and comfort the distressed and to exercise care that the alms are not misused; of which they shall render an account to the Consistory, and also (if anyone desires to be present) to the congregation, at such time as the Consistory may see fit. (Church Order of the FRCNA)*

**Article 26** – *The deacons shall enable the needy under their care to make use of Christian institutions of mercy. They shall confer and co-operate with deaconates of neighbouring churches when this is desirable for the proper performance of their task. They may also seek mutual understanding with other agencies in their community which are caring for the needy, so that the gifts may be distributed properly.*

## Book Recommendations

- Berghoef, Gerard & DeKoster, Lester. *The Deacon's Handbook, A Practical Guide for Church Leaders*. (Christian's Library Press, Grand Rapids, 1980)
- Strauch, Alexander, *Ministry of Mercy – the New Testament Deacon*, (Lewis and Roth Publishing, Colorado, 1992)

### Discussion Questions on Lecture

1. Wilhelmus A Brakel states concerning the office of deacon: *"Since deacons are intended for the church, it is not fitting that they distribute alms to those outside the church, and thus mix the gifts of the church with the common provision for the poor..."* He then gives 6 reasons for this statement. What do you think?
2. Some have argued, on the basis of Romans 16:1, that the NT does not exclude women from the office of deacon. What arguments can be brought against this position?
3. How should deacons be involved in 'Para-church' organizations such as *Word and Deed, Come over and Help, Redemption Prison Ministry*? If so, in what way should they be involved?
4. Should deacons use government support programs to alleviate the needs of those who come to them? For instance, assisting in the application for welfare; Ontario Disability Support Program or others?