

LOCATION INFORMATION

Bishop Suarez has endorsed the *diakonia* experience in the Florida-Bahamas Synod. *diakonia* is currently offered at three locations in Florida – St. Matthew’s Lutheran Church, Jacksonville, Karl Koepke 904-762-9518 / Redeemer Lutheran Church, Winter Park, Barb Cilik, 407-293-1686 / Grace Lutheran Church, Tampa, Lois Ann Sorensen, 813-494-4052. For more information see our webpage; www.diakoniausa.org. In addition to identifying students who would benefit from this course of study, we need pastors in these areas who are skilled in and have passion for teaching in the course areas identified in this brochure. We will explore other areas in the Synod for centers in the future, as well as a Spanish language track.



God’s work. Our hands.

If you would like to teach, to volunteer a potential future site, or have questions, please contact the Steering Committee Chair, Joel Rentz at joelrentz@aol.com or our Vice Chair, Peggy Aiello at peggyaiello@gmail.com.

diakonia Program COURSES

All courses are taught by pastors and/or lay professionals particularly skilled in that area of instruction or ministry. *diakonia* courses combine theological knowledge with practical skills. All students are encouraged to work at their own level of theological knowledge, academic training and experience in ministry.

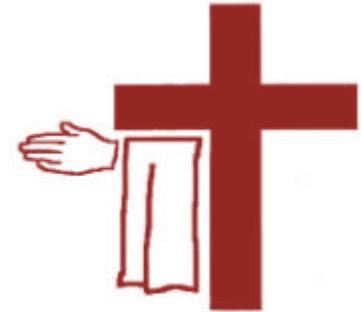
COURSES OFFERED in SERIES A:

1. **Introduction to the New Testament**
2. **Church History: The First 400 Years**
3. **Practical Ministry I: Biblical Images of the Life of the Church**
4. **Creeds and Confessions**
5. **Practical Ministry II: Visitation (Nursing Homes, Hospital, Homebound, Terminally Ill etc.)**
6. **The Daily Life of a Christian**

COURSES OFFERED in SERIES B:

1. **Introduction to the Old Testament**
2. **Christian Doctrine**
3. **Faith in the North American Context**
4. **To Communicate the Gospel**
5. **Christian Worship**
6. **Themes & Issues in Christian Ethics**

A dynamic and tested pathway to “equip the saints for ministry.”



diakonia™

OVERVIEW and COURSE LISTINGS

The diakonia Program™ is a two year program of theological education and spiritual formation.

diakoniaTM details



What is **diakonia**?

The **diakonia**TM Program is a two-year process of spiritual formation and theological education. This process occurs in three basic ways.

- by thorough grounding in the classic seminary disciplines of practical, systematic, historical and Biblical theology;
- by identifying and encouraging particular skills in ministry;
- by providing spiritual growth through worship, retreats, and a supportive community of fellow students and instructors.

These are the tools **diakonia** uses to help equip God's people for service in parish and neighborhood ministries. The primary theme and focus of the **diakonia** experience is found in this word of Scripture: "Let the one who would be great among you be your servant (*diakonos*)."

What is **diakonia**'s emphasis?

diakonia emphasizes the baptismal vocation of all Christians to serve as did our Lord Jesus. Participants are usually already leaders in their parishes, and have a high degree of commitment to the ministry of the Church. They want to deepen their life of faith and ground their baptismal commitment to serve in the scriptural, theological, liturgical and historical traditions of the church. They are committed to serve through the Church in a variety of ways: teaching, administration, liturgical leadership, action for social justice, evangelism, visitation of the sick, community organization, youth work, ministry among the elderly, and the like. In every way they seek, and are helped by **diakonia**, to grow closer to the image and example of Christ the servant.

How is **diakonia** structured?

diakonia is a two year course of study which consists of twelve courses - six courses each year. Each course is five weeks in length, meeting once a week for three hours each. Weekly assignments and readings reflect the twin purposes of relating subject matter to the student's context of life and ministry (family, parish, neighborhood, area of ministry), and giving a solid background to the topic. Students work at their own level, and assignments reflect the understanding that students are already busy in their families, jobs and parish. Typically, students average approximately 2-3 hours of study per week in addition to class time.

Fees

How much does **diakonia** cost?

1. **Tuition:** \$360 per year (for the two year program). Pro-rated refunds are given for students who withdraw from the program.
2. **Registration:** Each year, a non-refundable Registration Fee of \$35 is required from every student before classes begin in September.
3. **Books:** Actual costs for books vary from course to course, but instructors try to provide materials for less than \$40-50 per course.
4. **Retreats:** There is an annual **diakonia** retreat held every year along with graduation. Cost is announced each year.
5. **Financial Aid:** Financial aid is available, plus we strongly encourage congregations to help support their lay leaders. It's our goal to turn no one away because of financial need.