

# Order for the Consecration of a Synodical Deacon



*The creed, if one is used, is said following the sermon and before the hymn of the day. At the conclusion of the hymn of the day the candidate and pastor of the congregation stand before the bishop (or assistant to the bishop.)*

## **PRESENTATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

*The pastor of the congregation presents the candidate(s) with these or similar words:*

I present candidate's name(s) for consecration to the ministry of Deacon. *He/she/they* has/have been recommended by me, properly prepared, and approved by the bishop of the Florida-Bahamas Synod.

*The bishop (or assistant to the bishop) addresses the assembly with these or similar words.*

Those called to be synod deacons are members of a congregation and are accountable to the Pastor(s) of that congregation. The deacon is a minister of Word and Service, an outreach of Christ into the Community. The deacon serves the needy, cares for the sick, comforts the distressed. The deacon teaches and performs liturgical functions within the worship life of the congregation. The deacon, in a ministry of Word and Service, carries the love of Christ into the community.

## **THE EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATE**

*The chair of the Bishop's Deacon Oversight Committee, another synod deacon representing the order of synod deacons, or the representative of the Office of Bishop addresses the candidate(s).*

Will you, as a synod deacon, perform the work of a deacon in this congregation and in this community?

*Response* I will, and I ask God to help me

name of congregation Church, a congregation of the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, confesses that the Holy Scriptures are the Word of God and the norm for its faith and life. We accept, teach, and confess the Apostle's, Nicene, and Athanasian Creeds. We also acknowledge The Lutheran Confessions as true witnesses and faithful exposition of the Holy Scriptures. Will you serve in accordance with the Holy Scriptures and these creeds and confessions?

*Response* Yes, I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you be diligent in your study of the Holy Scriptures and faithful in your use of the means of grace and in prayer?

*Response* Yes, I will, and I ask God to help me.

Will you give witness in word and deed, and by your example encourage God's people by your own faithful service and living?

*Response* Yes, I will, and I ask God to help me.

*The bishop (or assistant to the bishop) concludes the questions.*

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, graciously give you the strength and compassion to perform them.

*The assembly responds.*

**Amen.**

## CONGREGATION'S AFFIRMATION OF THE DEACON

*The bishop (or assistant to the bishop) questions the assembly.*

Members of name of congregation, will you receive name of candidate, being consecrated and set apart to be a synod deacon to serve God's people, affirming and supporting *his/her* ministry among you with your prayers and support?

*The assembly responds.*

**We will.**

## THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION FOR THE SETTING APART OF A DEACON

*The candidate kneels. The bishop (or assistant to the bishop) gives voice to the entire prayer of consecration, beginning with the greeting.*

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Holy God: We thank You for sending Your Son, Jesus Christ, to show us the way of servant hood. We praise You for the mission that You have set before this congregation. We praise You for calling this servant to this ministry of Word and Service.

*The bishop (or assistant to the bishop) lays both hands on the head of the candidate. The congregation's pastor imposes his/her right hand also. Other clergy and deacons present are invited to come forward and do likewise.*

Heavenly Father, pour out your Holy Spirit upon name, whom you have called to be a deacon in this congregation and fill *him/her* with the gifts of grace for this ministry of Word and Service.

*The presiding minister continues.*

Deacon name, this ministry is committed to you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Let the people of name of congregation say:

*The assembly responds.*

**Amen.**

*A symbol of the ministry of deacon is presented by the congregation's pastor to the deacon. The following or similar words are used.*

(Wear this deacon's stole) *or* (Use this symbol) as a sign of your calling to serve the Lord and God's people.

*The deacon takes the symbol and stands to face the assembly. The bishop (or assistant presents the new deacon to the assembly.*

Members of the name of congregation, I present to you, deacon's name, consecrated and set apart as a synodical deacon in the Florida-Bahamas Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

*The assembly may acclaim the deacon with applause.*

*The service continues with the prayers of intercession. It is appropriate that the new deacon assume the role of assisting minister.*