



Florida-Bahamas Synod
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 God's work. Our hands.

PARISH DEACON TRAINING RECORD

Name: _____ **Email:** _____

Church: _____ **Date:** _____

Pastor: _____ **Email:** _____

PART ONE

Our synod has a lay education ministry called diakonia Florida: Florida-Bahamas Synod School of Lay Ministry. People can take a wide range of classes in this program. For more information go to: diakoniafl.org. Training to become a parish deacon requires the completion of 12 courses. There are 7 classes that every candidate is expected to complete, and 5 electives that may be selected by the candidate with the approval of their supervising pastor.

As an alternative, the supervising pastor may teach the required classes.

Classes Required for Every Candidate: (Place the date of completion by each course. Classes may be taken in any order.)

- _____ New Testament
- _____ Old Testament
- _____ Creeds and Confessions
- _____ Christian Doctrine
- _____ Worship
- _____ Communicating the Gospel
- _____ Ethics

Elective classes: Write the name of each elective course and check it off as you complete it. At least one of your electives must address social justice and/or inclusivity issues, such as Just Love, LGBTQIA+ topics, immigration and refugee resettlement, Hispanic culture and history, Arab American communities, etc. Choose courses that are of interest to you and/or relevant to the ministries you intend to undertake as a parish deacon.

PART TWO

The training of a parish deacon requires more than academic knowledge. Many valuable skills and expertise can only be acquired by practical experience. There are several things that are required for every candidate for parish ministry, but there is also space for the particular needs and desires of the candidate, the supervising pastor, and the congregation you will be serving.

Additional Required Training for All Candidates (Check the requirements off as you accomplish them.)

- Attend a Parish Deacon Table Talk with your supervising pastor
- Attend a Parish Deacon retreat
- Attend synod assembly as a delegate or visitor at least once during training
- Compose prayers of the congregation for at least three worship services (Gail Ramshaw's Intercessions for the Christian People is a helpful resource)
- Serve on a congregational committee of your choosing for at least one year
- Teach or co-teach a class session or forum discussion at least twice. This may involve a wide selection of types of classes – confirmation, Sunday School, adult Bible study, New Members, and so on –and forum topics
- Serve in at least two different types of worship assistance on Sunday mornings (assisting minister, usher, lector, speaker, etc.)
- Plan and participate in at least one outreach event or program

Training opportunities selected by the candidate and pastor: There are also many other experiences that are suited to your unique gifts, needs, desires, and goals. Please describe each additional training activity as you complete it, and record something about what you learned from the experience.

Some suggested training activities are 1) Accompany the pastor on visits to the sick and/or homebound, 2) Prepare the table for Eucharist, 3) Keep a spiritual journal for a designated length of time, 4) Spend time on a spiritual retreat, 5) Write an article or column for your congregation's newsletter, 6) Attend a program online or in person that is relevant to your congregation's circumstances and interests (small or large church ministry team development, stewardship, conflict management, and so on).

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

PART THREE

The development of a good working relationship between a parish deacon and their supervising pastor is very important. Check off these requirements as the two of you complete them.

Pastor and candidate read and discuss Let Your Life Speak by Parker Palmer

Pastor and candidate read and discuss 2 additional books of their choosing. A list of suggested book titles follows this training record. Please list the titles you selected and read.

1.

2.

During your training program, in addition to reading 3 books together and discussing them, the two of you are expected to meet quarterly to discuss parish life, your ministry experiences, and an assessment of the progress of your training program. Please describe in one or two sentences what was discussed at each of these sessions. Use extra sheets of paper if your training lasts longer than the space below anticipates.

First quarter:

Second quarter:

Third quarter:

Fourth quarter:

Fifth quarter:

Sixth quarter:

Seventh quarter:

Eighth quarter:

PART FOUR

When all requirements have been fulfilled, both the candidate and the supervising pastor should write and sign a short evaluation of the training program and your vision for the parish ministry the candidate will be undertaking. Those evaluations and these completed requirement sheets must be submitted for final approval to the Parish Deacon Oversight Committee.

PLEASE SEND COMPLETED TRAINING RECORD TO:
Darlene Kaiser at deaconchair@yahoo.com

READING AND RESOURCES LIST

Lutheranism

- [The Book of Concord](#)
- [Lutheran Questions, Lutheran Answers](#) – Martin Marty
- [Lutheranism](#) – Gritsch and Jensen

Leadership

- [Canoeing the Mountains](#) – Tod Bolsinger
- [Embody](#) – Karoline Lewis

Discernment

- [Let Your Life Speak](#) – Parker Palmer

Spirituality

- [Practicing Our Faith](#) – Dorothy Bass
- [Celebration of Discipline](#) – Richard Foster

Prayer

- [Learning to Pray](#) – James Martin
- [Intercessions for the Christian People](#) – Gail Ramshaw
- [Prayer](#) – Richard Foster

Preaching

- [A Lay Preacher's Guide](#) – Karoline Lewis

Worship

- <https://demdsynod.org/worship-assistant-training>
- [How Can Lay People Participate in Worship Leadership?](#)
- ELW
- [Serving the Assembly's Worship: A Handbook for Assisting Ministers](#) – Christian Sharen
- [Getting the Word Out: A Handbook for Readers](#) – Christopher George Hoyer
- [A Manual for Acolytes: The Duties of the Server at Liturgical Celebrations](#) – Dennis Michno
- [The Sunday Assembly \(Using ELW Book 1\)](#) – Lorraine Brugh, Gordon Lathrop
- [Welcome One Another: A Handbook for Hospitality Ministers](#) – Paul Hoffman
- [Altar Guild and Sacristy Handbook](#) – S. Anita Stauffer, Suzanne Burke

Bible

- [Eat this Book](#) – Eugene Peterson
- [How the Bible Actually Works](#) – Peter Enns

Ethics

- [The Peaceable Kingdom](#) – Stanley Hauerwas
- [Christian Ethics: An Essential Guide](#) – Robin Lovin
- [Common Callings and Ordinary Virtues](#) – Brent Waters

Inclusivity

- [The Cross and the Lynching Tree](#) – James Cone
- [The Uneasy Conscience of a White Christian](#) – Clifford Williams
- [Speaking Peace in a Climate of Conflict](#) – Marilyn McEntyre
- [Heavy Burdens: Seven Ways LGBTQ Christians Experience Harm in the Church](#) – Bridget Rivera

Visitation/Hospital

- [Serving in Church Visitation](#) – Jerry Stubblefield

Diaconate

- [The Diaconate: A Full and Equal Order](#) – James Monroe Barnett
- [Diakonia: Re-interpreting the Ancient Sources](#) – John N. Collins
- [Deacons and the Church: Making Connection between the Old and the New](#) – John N. Collins