

Ministering by Word and Example 2021



Course outline

Description

Ministering by Word and Example is an online course for people who are discerning a call to, or preparing for, the diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada.

The Iona Report¹ provides the framework for this program, rooting it in a theological vision of vocation, and providing session themes from the areas of recommended competencies for lifelong learning, formation, and training for the diaconate. These competencies “are intended to be a guide for the church to discern the gifts of a person called to the diaconate, and equip and form them with the knowledge and skills they will need to minister effectively.”²

This program engages students in theory, theology, practice, reflection, and action in ways that are useful for ministerial formation in a variety of learning contexts. It:

- Explores the foundations for diaconal service in the Anglican tradition
- Develops capacity for Biblical and theological reflection; pastoral and social responses, especially with vulnerable people; and leadership in public worship
- Provides opportunities for discernment of gifts and vocation

The course will focus on the diaconal dimensions of our baptismal promise to “proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ.”

Participants

Suitable for those seeking to explore and strengthen the tools needed for effective ministry as a member of the diaconate. It will be beneficial for those interested in discernment, formation, or for lifelong learning.

Course Format

12 three-hour sessions from October 30 to December 6, 2021

2 times per week

- Mondays 5:00 to 8:00 pm CST AND
- Saturdays 9:30 am to 12:30 pm CST

The Zoom online platform will be used for sessions, allowing for small and large group interaction, special guests, and video. The zoom room will be open for 15 minutes before the official start, so participants can chat, drink some coffee or tea, and settle in to community together.

¹ General Synod, “The Iona Report: the Diaconate in the Anglican Church of Canada.” ACC: Toronto, 2016. Available at: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/iona-report.pdf>.

² Iona Report, p. 20

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Posted readings, further discussion, and assignments will be made available on a Moodle platform. Leadership will be offered by CCS staff Marcie Gibson, David Lappano, and Lori Stewart, along with guest presenters.

Course Goals

1. Identify and use models of theological and biblical reflection, based on diaconal themes, for “interpreting the needs, concerns and hopes of the world to the church”.
2. Clarify one’s identity and call as a member of the Body of Christ, and reflect on what it means to serve as a deacon in the context of the Church’s practice of ministry, both in the church and in the world.
3. Gain knowledge of suitable resources for social and pastoral ministry and congregational leadership.
4. Gain familiarity with the diaconal tradition and wider polity of the Anglican Church of Canada, as a dimension of baptismal ministry and an ordained office
5. Deepen confidence in leading public worship (daily offices, Eucharistic readings and prayers, pastoral offices such as communion of the sick)
6. Appreciate the diaconal call to situations of need and social injustice through pastoral care and social action.

Assignments

1. A written Spiral reflection – workshopped in session 3 and then due November 13.
2. Student “Presentation” on a symbol of *diakonia*. How do you use this symbol in explaining *diakonia* to someone else? Due December 4.
3. Reflection on Readings – Pick three of the readings and explain how they relate to your diaconal vocation. Due January 10, 2022.

Assessment

Students will be assessed for:

- Attendance and participation in all sessions
- Satisfactory completion of written assignments
- Leadership and participation in student-led presentations

Texts, Readings, and Resources

A separate Bibliography and Reading List for the Sessions will be forthcoming.

Certification

Participants will be given a Letter of Completion based on attendance, satisfactory completion of assignments, and active participation. Otherwise, participants will receive a Letter of Participation or a Letter of Audit.

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Course Content and Schedule

Date	Session	Theme and Topics
Sat. Oct. 30 9:30 – 12:30 CDT	1	Introduction / Community Building a. Community building b. Worship & introduction to worship norms for the program c. Review the course outline and process, assignments etc. d. About CCS, programs, certificates, Anglican history of CCS e. How to Zoom / Moodle f. Introduction to the spiral Model of Theological Reflection
Mon. Nov. 1 5:00 – 8:00 CDT	2	Introduction to Diakonia and the Diaconate in the Anglican Tradition a. Considering themes in the Iona Report, BAS ordination service, and other documents b. Lenses of diaconal roles and scripture c. the Deaconess tradition in the ACC
Sat. Nov. 6 9:30 – 12:30 CDT	3	Human Awareness and Understanding a. The Spiral Model of Theological reflection (from session 1) b. Self-awareness, diversity, and social location c. Identifying tools for interpersonal relationships and leadership (conflict, listening skills, social analysis, developmental stages of groups)
Mon. Nov. 8 5:00 – 8:00 CST	4	Practical Training and Experience: Pastoral Care a. Visiting the sick & home communion b. An expansive lens of pastoral care c. Care of self, a personal Rule of Life, and boundaries
Sat. Nov. 13 9:30 – 12:30	5	Practical Training and Experience: Roles of the Deacon in Worship a. Roles of the deacon in liturgy b. Different forms of worship and leadership
Mon. Nov. 15 5:00 – 8:00 CST	6	Diaconal Ministry in the Public Square: Indigenous Right Relations a. Considering our own biases and social location b. Post-colonial and Indigenous theologies c. The Doctrine of Discovery d. Current polity of the Indigenous Anglican Church e. White fragility & the role of non-Indigenous people in Reconciliation
Sat. Nov. 20 9:30 – 12:30	7	Diaconal Ministry in the Public Square: Social Ministry & Social Change

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Social analysis & theological reflection on recent social movements b. Relationship between diakonia within and beyond ecclesial structures c. Writing and understanding intercessory prayers
Mon. Nov. 22 5:00 – 8:00 CST	8	Anglican Church Polity, Intercultural Ministry and the worldwide Anglican Communion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Understanding national, diocesan, and local structures b. Accountability and Responsibility c. participation in the Worldwide Communion & the role of the diaconate
Sat. Nov. 27 9:30 – 12:30 CST	9	Scripture and Biblical Interpretation & Spirituality and Spiritual Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Themes and variety within scriptures b. Diakonia-related texts c. Bible study tools d. Spiritual practices, prayer and vocation
Mon. Nov. 29 5:00 – 8:00 CST	10	Diaconal History in Christian Tradition and Ecumenical Practice <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Historical manifestations of diakonia b. Current diaconal networks and ecumenical/global expressions
Sat. Dec. 4 9:30 – 12:30 CST	11	Participant Leadership – Diaconal Lenses for Ministry Practice Student presentations
Mon. Dec. 6 CST	12	Integration, Review of Learnings, and Closure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Feedback for self and peers b. Evaluation of the Course and Ending well

Session Schedules

Saturday Mornings		Monday Evenings	
9:15-9:30	Optional pre-session gathering	4:45-5:00	Optional pre-session gathering
9:30-10:00	Morning Prayer	5:00-5:15	Opening Introduction
10:00-10:15	Opening Introduction	5:15-6:15	Session Theme
10:15-11:15	Session Theme	6:15-6:30	Break
11:15-11:30	Break	6:30-7:30	Session theme
11:30-12:30	Session theme	7:30-8:00	Compline