



Deacon Formation Academy

Formation Process Overview, Process, & Curriculum





History of Diaconate in AZ Timeline



1980s

- With approval of 1979 Book of Common Prayer, defines role of Deacon.
- Order of Vocational Diaconate for the Diocese of Arizona evolves.
- Deacons ordained at varying times, informal formation.



1990s

- At direction of Bishop Shahan, deacon formation process begins in community as a cohort.
- In 1998, the formation program modified by Rebecca McClain+ and Veronica Ritson; consistent & structured process introduced focus on intertwining elements

2000s

- In 2003, Canon law changes - separated Diaconate & Priest ordination processes.
- Since the “Class of 2008” the formation process toward ordination begins annually

2010-
2020s

- “Class of 2012” experienced revised time-line due to Commission on Ministry’s (COM) application process/cycle changed.
- 2014 Bishop Smith issues Pastoral Letter : ***The Diaconate in the Diocese of Arizona for the 21st Century.***
- 2015 Bishop Smith & Deacons’ Council re-structure role due to sabbatical by The Venerable Veronica Ritson; to now include an Archdeacon Role & a Director of Deacon Formation role.
- June 2016 The Venerable Sarah Getts appointed Archdeacon; The Rev. Dr Robin Hollis, Director of Deacon Formation.
- 2016 to current – curriculum updated, more focus on deacon life-long learning, deacon community meets for community building by geographic areas, deacon community service projects begin, & ***Best Skills*** added to post-ordination curriculum.
- June 2022 – curriculum updated, added Digital Ministry. The Venerable Amy Bryan appointed Archdeacon

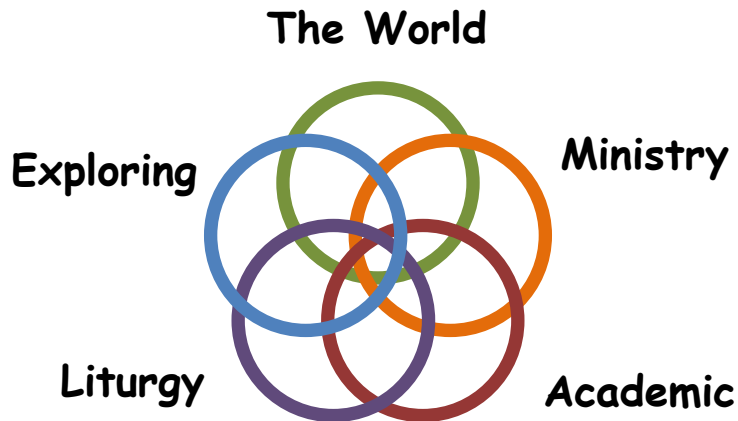


History of Diaconate in AZ

Formation Process



"Intertwining Elements":



Academic: Saturday: Classroom, lecture, discussion, required reading, etc. - per Canon requirement

The World: Journaling by mixing scripture with "world" news and events - "Listening to the Word"

Exploring: Selecting readings of personal interest with written reflection - "Inquiring Minds Want to Know"

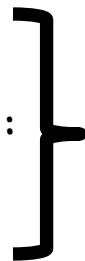
Liturgy: Sunday: Practicum thru participating at home parish & at times includes Trinity Cathedral Sunday Choral Eucharist as lectors, acolytes, chalice bearer, etc. as well as visiting other parishes/denominations.

Ministry: Ongoing with the World and Faith Community - moving into leadership

COMMUNITY of DiF [Deacon in Formation]

St. Benedict's Rule: Pray, Work Community, Study, Eat - Together

Evolution to date:



- Classroom subjects include - Servant Leadership, Scripture, Church History, etc.
- Retreats (2) are: Community Building & "Care of Self w/Companions"
- Internship in another parish - now 6 months(Sept-Feb)changed from 2 to 4 months.
- Milestone measurements though subject-presentations and a final essay exam.
- Post-Ordination continued formation with "Best Skills Program" & mentoring.
- Realigned Curriculum flow & map to Deacon Competencies



Overview AZ Diaconate: Deacon Formation Curriculum*



**Formation Year is based on a June-to -June period with curriculum and activities subject to change as formation is continually evolving.*

Retreats:

Year 1 - June: Community Building (Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon)

Year 2 - July: Care of Self & Care of Others (Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon)

Experiential:

Year 1 February thru August of Year 2 - Sunday Practicum - 3rd Sunday of each month (at St. John's, Glendale or at Trinity Cathedral)

Year 2 - September to Feb. - Internship (6 months at a different parish)

Year 2/3: August - Nov. "Deacons in the World" In Community with non-profit or CPE "Lite"

Reflection/Reading/Writing:

- On-going Journaling and Personal Reflections
- "Take and Read" (readings to broaden your understanding) Begins monthly in April of Year 1.
- Papers and Presentations
- Final Exam Essay

Class Sessions:

- Transforming One's Sacred Spirit (3 sessions)
 - Transforming One's Voice (2 sessions)
 - Community Support (with Priest-in-Charge & Partner)
 - Church History (2 sessions)
 - Book of Common Prayer/Deacon in Liturgy (2 sessions)
 - Scripture (2 sessions)
 - Theology (2 sessions)
 - Pastoral Care Awareness/Recovery Ministries (2 sessions)
 - Church Ethics (2 sessions)
 - Justice, Advocacy, & Organizing (2 sessions)
 - Anti-racism training (1 session)
 - Canons & Constitutions (1 session)
 - Preaching with Bishop Reddall
 - Digital Ministry overview (2 sessions)
 - Pre-Ordination (1.5 days)
 - Post-Ordination (2 sessions)
 - Post-Ordination (Yr. 2) - Best Skills 6-month Program
- Formation continues after Ordination with a variety of offerings to support life-long learning- 2 yrs.+**

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Deacon Formation Overview Questions?



Thank You for your time & support of the
Deacon Formation Academy.



Go in Peace, to Love & Serve....!

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