

ORDER OF DEACONESSES CANON 1969

Canon 7, 1969

A canon to regulate and promote the order of deaconesses.

Whereas Deaconesses have been licensed to perform pastoral and liturgical duties in parishes and in other fields of service recognised by the bishop or diocesan synod in many dioceses in this Church

And whereas it is desirable to regulate and promote their ministry

Now the General Synod prescribes as follows:

PART I: OF THE ORDER OF DEACONESSES

1. The Order of Deaconesses is an order of ministry in the Church of England in Australia to which women are admitted by prayer and the laying on of hands of the bishop. The Order is not one of the historic threefold Orders of the Church of England in Australia.

PART II: OF ADMISSION TO THE ORDER OF DEACONESSES

2. Every woman who, at the time of the coming into operation of this canon, has been admitted as a deaconess in any diocese by prayer and the laying on of hands of a bishop of this Church shall be deemed to be a deaconess within the meaning of this canon and every deaconess who has been or shall be admitted as a deaconess by prayer and the laying on of hands of a bishop of a church in full communion with this Church may be eligible for appointment as a deaconess in this Church.
3. Every woman admitted to the Order of Deaconesses shall be not less than twenty-three years of age, baptized, confirmed and a communicant of the Church of England in Australia.
4. Every woman who is to be admitted to the said Order shall first present to the bishop of the diocese:
 - (a) a certificate signed by a person approved by the bishop that she has been nominated to exercise the office of deaconess within his diocese.
 - (b)
 - (i) her birth certificate or other evidence satisfactory to the bishop of the place and date of her birth.
 - (ii) a certificate or other evidence of her baptism and confirmation.

- (iii) the names and addresses of persons who are available to give evidence of her good life, of her conformity to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church of England in Australia, and of her fitness for the office of a deaconess.
 - (iv) a certificate signed by the officiating minister and one churchwarden of the church wherein she usually worships, that notice, in the form or to the effect of the form contained in the first schedule hereto was given in the said church at the same times as divine service on some Sunday at least one month before the day appointed for her admission to the said Order.
5. No woman shall be admitted to the said Order except she be found, on examination by the bishop or by competent persons appointed by him for this purpose, to possess a sufficient knowledge of Holy Scripture and of the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Church of England in Australia.
 6. No woman shall be admitted to the said Order who is suffering or who has suffered from any physical or mental infirmity which, in the opinion of the bishop, will prevent her from exercising the office of a deaconess.

PART III: OF THE LICENSING OF DEACONESSES

7. No deaconess shall exercise her office in any diocese until she has been licensed so to do by the bishop thereof: Provided that when any Deaconess is to exercise her office temporarily in any diocese the written permission of the bishop shall suffice.
8. Every deaconess who is to be licensed to exercise her office in any diocese shall make and subscribe a declaration in the form set out in the second schedule hereto.
9. Every bishop, before licensing a deaconess to exercise her office in any place, shall satisfy himself that adequate provision has been made for her salary, for her insurance against sickness or accident, for her annual and long service leave and for her superannuation.
10. The bishop of every diocese shall keep a register book wherein shall be entered the names of every person whom he has either admitted to the Order of Deaconesses or licensed to exercise the office of a deaconess in the diocese.

PART IV: GENERAL

11. The provisions of this canon affect the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts it.
12. This canon may be cited as the "Order of Deaconesses Canon 1969."

FIRST SCHEDULE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that of this parish intends to offer herself as a candidate for admission to the Order of deaconesses by the Bishop of at a service to be held in on the day of 19

If any person knows any just cause or impediment for which the said ought not be admitted to the said Order, he is now to declare the same or signify the same forthwith to the bishop.

WE DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the above notice was publicly read in the Parish Church of at during the time of Divine Service on Sunday the day of, 19, and to our knowledge no impediment has been alleged.

Witness our hands this day of 19

.....
Officiating Minister

.....
Churchwarden

SECOND SCHEDULE

DECLARATION

I, A.B., do solemnly declare that I will pay true and canonical obedience to the Bishop of and his successors.

(Signed)
