

ORDINATION SERVICE FOR DEACONS CANON 1985

Canon 16, 1985

A canon to authorise the use of a form of service for the ordination of deacons.

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as "Ordination Service for Deacons Canon 1985."
2. The use by this Church of the form of service set out in the schedule in accordance with the rubrics incorporated therein, for the ordination of deacons, is authorised.
3. The admission of persons to an office of deacon in this Church in accordance with the service set out in the schedule is authorised.
4. Nothing in section 2 or 3 affects
 - (a) the use of the Book of Common Prayer in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution; or
 - (b) the use of An Australian Prayer Book 1978 in accordance with the Australian Prayer Book Canon 1977; or
 - (c) the admission of a person to an office of bishop, priest or deacon in this Church as if this canon had not been made.
5. The synod of a diocese may, by ordinance, regulate the use of the service set out in the schedule at services held in that diocese.
6. A person made deacon in this Church in accordance with the service in the schedule is for the purpose of the application of Article 36 of the Articles of Religion, sometimes call the Thirty-nine Articles, rightly, orderly and lawfully made and ordained.
7. This canon affects the order and good government of the church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the canon.

SCHEDULE

The Ordination of Deacons

The ordination of deacons shall take place on a Sunday following one of the Ember weeks, or on another day appointed by the bishop, when a large number of people can be present.

1. The Holy Communion begins in the customary way. Where the rubrics in that service so allow, it is desirable that the confession and absolution be used after the reading of the commandments or one of the permitted alternatives.
2. The ordination collect

Almighty God, giver of all that is good, you have appointed various orders of ministry in your Church; bless these persons now called to the order of deacons. So fill them all with your truth and clothe them with holiness, that they may faithfully minister to the glory of your Name and the benefit of your Church. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The collect of the day is added

3. The readings are selected from those printed on pages 293-295 of AAPB or are those appointed for the day.
4. After the Gospel there is a sermon explaining the office and duty of a deacon.
5. All stand for the Nicene Creed which is said or sung.

The Presentation

6. The archdeacon, and/or other persons (who may be a priest and a lay person) appointed by the bishop, bring the candidates to stand before the bishop, and says

N, Bishop in the Church of God,

I/we present to you N/N to be admitted to the order of deacons.

The bishop says

Can you assure us that they are suited by training and godly living to minister to Christ's family?

The archdeacon

They have been examined. Enquiries have been made among the people of God, especially among those concerned with their training, and I believe that all these candidates are so suited.

The bishop says to the people

Dear friends in Christ, you know the importance of this ministry. We have been assured that these persons are suited to this calling. If anyone knows any adequate reason why we should not proceed, you should now come forward and make it known.

If any offence or obstacle is alleged against a candidate, the bishop shall postpone the candidate's ordination until the matter has been resolved.

If no objection is made, he continues

Are you ready to accept them as deacons in the Church of God?

The people reply

We accept them gladly!

The Examination

7. The people sit. The bishop instructs the candidates.

My *brothers*, every believer is called to follow Jesus Christ, serving God the Father in the world, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of service under the care of your bishop.

You are to serve the church of God and to work with its members in caring for the sick, the needy, and all who are in trouble. By your teaching and your life you are to show Christ's people that in serving others we are serving Christ himself. You are to make his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom you live, and work, and worship.

You are to share with the community the love of Christ and his gospel of reconciliation and hope. You are to pray and work for peace and justice in the world.

As deacons, you are to model your life according to the word of God. You are to be faithful in prayer, and take your place with bishop, priest and people in public worship and at the administration of the sacraments.

You are to strengthen the faithful, teach the young, search out the careless and the indifferent, and to preach the word of God in the place to which you are licensed.

In order that by your promises you may commit yourselves to your calling, and that this congregation may understand your intention, you must answer clearly to these questions which I now ask you in the name of God and his church:

Do you believe that you are truly called by God and inwardly moved by the Holy Spirit to this order and ministry of deacons, according to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ?

Answer

I do.

The bishop

Do you accept the holy scriptures as containing all doctrines necessary for eternal salvation through faith in Jesus Christ?

Answer

I do.

The bishop

Will you take your part in reading the holy scriptures in the church, in teaching the doctrine of Christ, and in administering the sacraments?

Answer

I will.

The bishop

Will you be diligent in prayer, and in the study of the holy scriptures, and in such other studies as help in the performance of your office?

Answer

I will.

The bishop

Will you endeavour, with the help of God, to make your personal life *and that of your family* a wholesome example to Christ's people?

Answer

I will.

The bishop

Will you constantly seek the help of the Holy Spirit to use and develop God's gifts to you, and to proclaim the gospel of Christ?

Answer

I will.

The bishop

Will you promote unity, peace, and love among all Christian people, and especially among those whom you serve?

Answer

I will.

The bishop

Will you accept the order and the discipline of this Church, submitting yourselves to the lawful authority of your bishop and those appointed to have charge over you?

Answer

I will, with the help of God.

The bishop

Almighty God, who has given you the will to do all these things, grant you also strength and power to perform them.

The people

Amen. May God help us to support you in this work.

The Prayers

8. The bishop commends those who are to be ordained to the prayers of the people and silence is kept.
9. A minister begins this litany

God the Father,

Have mercy on us

God the Son,

Have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit,

Have mercy on us.

Holy, blessed and glorious Trinity, one God,

Have mercy on us.

We humbly pray that you will hear us, O Lord; send your peace to the whole world, which you have reconciled to yourself by the ministry of your Son, Jesus.

Lord, hear our prayer.

Heal the divisions of your church, that all may be one,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Grant to your people the forgiveness of sins, growth in grace, and the fruit of the Spirit,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Lead the members of your church in their particular vocation and ministry to serve you through a true and godly life,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Raise up faithful and able ministers in your church, that the Gospel may be made known to all people,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Inspire all bishops, priests, and deacons with your love, that they may hunger for truth, and thirst after righteousness,

Lord hear our prayer.

Fill them with compassion, and move them to care for all your people,

Lord hear our prayer.

Bless your *servants* (N.N...) now to be admitted to the order of deacons, and pour your grace upon *them*, that *they* may faithfully

fulfil the duties of this ministry, build up your church, and glorify your Name,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Sustain by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit those who have been called to the ministry of your church, and encourage them to persevere to the end,

Lord, hear our prayer.

Gather us with all your saints into your eternal kingdom,

Lord, hear our prayer.

The Laying on of Hands

10. The candidates kneel before the bishop who says this prayer over them.

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your son Jesus Christ our Lord, who took on himself the form of a servant, and humbled himself, becoming obedient even to death on a cross. We praise you that you have highly exalted him and made him Lord of all.

Through him, holy Father, we pray you to send down your Holy Spirit upon *these* your *servants*. Fill *them* with your strength and power for *their* work as *deacons* of your church, to the glory of your Name and the benefit of your people.

The bishop lays his hands on the head of each saying

N., receive authority for the office and work of a deacon in the church of God; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

And the people say

Amen.

(the deacon may be appropriately vested)

The bishop gives to *him* the New Testament, saying

Receive this sign of your authority to proclaim God's word and to assist in the administration of his holy sacraments.

11. The bishop

Lord, pour your grace continually on these your *servants* and stir up the spirit of holiness within *them*. May *they* be modest and humble, and strong and steadfast in observing the discipline of Christ. Let *their* lives and

teaching so reflect your commandments, that through *them* many may come to know you and love you. As your Son came not to be served but to serve, may *these* deacons share in his service, and come to the unending glory of him who, with you and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

12. All stand

The bishop may present the newly ordained deacons to the people and say

People of God, I present to you these deacons.

The congregation may welcome them with applause.

13. The greeting of peace is given by the bishop

We are the body of Christ.

His Spirit is with us.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A hymn may be sung

The Holy Communion continues with the bringing of the gifts of the people to the Lord's Table (First Order #16, Second Order #19).

NOTE: The newly-ordained deacons may be invited by the bishop to assist in the administration of the communion.

NOTE In the form of service above all rubrics are printed in red.
