

## **Clergy - Vocational Deacons**

Diaconal ministry is understood as one which takes on the characteristics of both servant-hood and leadership. The diocese began ordaining persons to the vocational diaconate during 2011. There is a sample Letter of Agreement (LOA) on the diocesan web site, and the information provided for Vocational Deacons will continue to expand over time.

The model in the Diocese of Virginia typically involves a three-year placement by the Bishop with the agreement of the clergy in charge of a church. The Bishop may also place a deacon in a mission church to serve as the representative of the Bishop.

- Vocational deacons will typically not receive compensation (salary, housing or housing allowance, pension payments) beyond reimbursement for required expenses, such as mileage.
- Provision may also be made for the deacon to have access to a discretionary fund of the church or church employer they are serving.
- Vocational deacons shall be entitled to periods of leave from professional responsibilities according to their LOA.

Again, as noted, as the diocese becomes more familiar with the role and responsibilities of the vocational diaconate, additional information will be included in these guidelines, as well as on the diocesan web site.