



# ATLANTIC DISTRICT of the LC-MS DIACONATE PROGRAM

Greetings in the Precious Name of Jesus!

The Office of Deacon in the Atlantic District is a source of joy and comfort to God's people! Those trained to bring the Good News in Word and Service under local Pastoral authority are most appropriately commissioned as Atlantic District Commissioned Deacons. The guidelines which follow are made available for individuals to discern God's will for their personal involvement; for pastors and churches to discern the ways in which deacons can serve; to outline the course of studies and accountable ministry involvement that lead toward commissioned deacon status; and to outline the process of authorization and continuation of commissioned deacon status.

The Atlantic District is pleased to join the Church through the ages in celebrating the gift of diaconal service among God's Holy People. [Click here to download the complete diaconate guidelines.](#)

Overall supervision of the Diaconate program is the responsibility of the Praesidium of the Atlantic District, with coordination of Diaconate classes and direct supervision falling to the Vice Presidents of each Region.

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## PREREQUISITES

*A candidate needs to have a basic understanding of the Scriptures, be active in the ministry of his/her congregation, be demonstrating a living faith, and meet minimum educational requirements.*

1. A candidate should have gained from personal devotion and study, general knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.
2. The candidate should have a basic knowledge of Christian teaching from a Lutheran perspective, specifically Luther's Small Catechism.
3. The candidate should be active in the leadership of the congregation in a minimum of two major areas.
4. The candidate must be an active member of an Atlantic District (LC-MS) congregation and have the endorsement of both his/her pastor and congregation.
5. The candidate should have completed high school (or equivalent) and be capable of college level work.

### **STEP ONE**

One who desires to explore the diaconate program should speak with their pastor about their desire and wish, asking their pastor for prayer and support in this endeavor. Both the applicant and the pastor should review the available information on the Atlantic District website pertaining to the Diaconate Program. Questions concerning the program should be directed to either the Atlantic District Office and/or the regional vice president. Following this conversation with their pastor, the applicant should contact the Atlantic District Office to request an application. The applicant will then complete the form and return it to the district office. The district office will forward a copy of the completed form to the applicant's regional vice president. After reviewing and accepting the application, the regional vice president will inform the candidate of the class schedule for the candidate's region, as well as any additional information the candidate will need to begin classes.

## STEP TWO

After a candidate has been accepted, he/she will be enrolled in the approved course of study of the Atlantic District, which consists of ten courses plus an internship. It is designed to be completed in two years.

The regional vice president of the student will supervise the administration of classes including securing instructors, receiving tuition and forwarding it to the district, receiving grades from instructors, distributing and receiving class evaluations from both instructors and students. The diaconate courses, with a brief outline of each course, are available on the Atlantic District website.

After the first year, the student may apply for acceptance into the internship portion of the program. The student will complete all sections of Part II of the application and submit this to the district office. The district office will forward a copy to the regional vice president of the student. The regional vice president will schedule an interview with the student and the student's pastor.

Upon satisfactory completion of the courses and the internship, a final interview for certification as a commissioned deacon will take place. The oversight for the interview and praesidium recommendation of the candidate for commissioning will be the responsibility of the regional vice president.

ATLANTIC DISTRICT DIACONATE PROGRAM  
APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION OF DIACONAL COURSES

**PART 1-**

Application for the **academic courses** of the Diaconate Program only.

1. Complete Part I of application.
2. Attach a letter of recommendation from your Pastor.
3. Mail completed packet to:

**Atlantic District Diaconate Program  
171 White Plains Rd.  
Bronxville, NY 10708**

**Note:**

- Acceptance into the academic programs does not constitute acceptance into the Diaconate Program.
- Completion of the academic program does not automatically qualify a person for the Diaconate Program.
- You may seek acceptance into the Diaconate Program as an intern, after completing one year of classes and by completing Part 2 of the application.

**PART 2-**

Application for **admission** to the Diaconate Program of the Atlantic District, The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

1. Complete Part 2 of application
2. Attach all required letters.
3. Mail completed packet to:

**Atlantic District Diaconate Program  
171 White Plains Rd.  
Bronxville, NY 10708**

**PART 1**

**I. PERSONAL INFORMATION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Work/cell phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Baptized: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Confirmed \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle: Single or Married      Spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Name and ages of children living at home:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name and location of present congregation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Pastor's name: \_\_\_\_\_

**II. EDUCATIONAL INFORMATION**

HIGH SCHOOL: \_\_\_\_\_ Graduated: Y or N

COLLEGE/UNIV: \_\_\_\_\_ Years attended \_\_\_\_\_

Degree \_\_\_\_\_ Field of Study \_\_\_\_\_

Post Graduate School \_\_\_\_\_ Degree \_\_\_\_\_

**PART 1 (continued)**

**III. RELIGIOUS BIBLE STUDIES/SEMINARS/WORKSHOPS COMPLETED**

Name and Sponsored by:

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**IV. EXPERIENCE (please describe your parish work experience during the last three (3) years)**

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\_\_\_\_\_  
(Signature of applicant)

\_\_\_\_\_  
(Date)

## PART 2

### Please complete the steps outlined below

- I. A 2-4 page autobiographical essay that includes answers to the following:
  1. What specific events or circumstances in your life, led you to consider becoming a Deacon in the Atlantic District?
  2. How has this event or circumstance influenced your faith journey?
  3. In what way and how will your service to Christ and His church change as a commissioned deacon?
  4. How has your family and close friends responded to your decision to become a commissioned deacon? Has there been those who opposed your decision? What reason(s) were given for their opposition?
  5. What has been the greatest influence on your growth in faith and life?
  6. Which child of God has had the most influence on your spiritual growth? How?
  7. What are the two greatest things that you have learned about God and your relationship with him in the last five years?
  8. Which book from the Holy Scriptures has had the greatest impact on you?
  9. Describe your devotional life.
  10. Are there areas of ministry in your congregation where you have had an opportunity to lead? What has been the nature of your leadership?
  11. In which area(s) of ministry do you find special joy?
  12. In which area(s) of ministry have you found the most challenging or difficult?
  13. What gifts, do you believe God has given to you?
  14. In what areas of ministry do you hope to serve? Why?
- II. Two recommendations concerning your Christian character and life, personality, and ability from a person who has known you for at least 2 recent years.
- I. Two letters of recommendation and endorsement; one from your pastor and the other from your congregation.