

## The work of the diaconate

The work of the deacons grows out of the needs of the congregation and community. In Acts chapter 6, the first deacons were ordained to look after the needs of the widows and literally *wait on tables*. The deacons wait on the tables at their local congregations in a number of areas and offer assistance in a variety of ways.

## What do deacons do?

The deacons often work behind the scenes in response to emergency needs in the congregation and community for food, housing, utilities, transportation, medicine, and other needs as they occur. Deacons are available to members of the congregation when problems arise.

## What can church members do?

The deacons are representatives of the Body, acting as the arms and the feet of the Lord Jesus. Their goal is to encourage people to minister to the needs of one another in the church as well as to the people in the surrounding community. Deacons also serve as a resource to provide opportunities for service.

## The Deacons' goal and objective

Deacons are called to be an accessible resource in their church and community, to seek to meet needs with discretion, grace, love and accountability. To this end the work of the deacons is a *spiritual ministry*, and therefore in need at all times of the prayers and support of the body of Christ.

*Many of us know what it means to go through hard times. We must always remind people to pray and trust God, even when they do not know what to do next to solve their problems.*



## The Role of MNA

### Urban & Mercy Ministries

Mission to North America serves PCA churches and presbyteries by encouraging and promoting mercy ministries in a number of different ways.

- Providing financial assistance to encourage minority leaders to attend colleges, seminaries and other training programs. Funding for this assistance is provided by the annual Thanksgiving Offering, given by PCA churches and individual members.
- Coordinating leadership training and internship opportunities among churches who serve communities of need.
- Conducting (or helping sponsor or plan) conferences that provide mercy ministry leadership training and encouragement.
- Promoting awareness of ministries, conferences and other training or educational resources that encourage the development of mercy ministries.
- Maintaining an up-to-date Mercy Ministries directory on the MNA web site.
- Providing the MNA web site as a resource for mercy ministries networking.

**“Mobilizing Your Church for Mercy Ministry” is a resource for training deacons available through the CE&P Bookstore.**

## Purpose of the Deacons

**To minister to those in need, to the sick, to the friendless and to any who may be in distress.**

**To develop the grace of liberality in our members and distribute the gifts of the people**

**To care for the property of the congregation.**

## MNA MERCY MINISTRIES VISION

The purpose of MNA Mercy Ministries is to encourage and equip PCA churches and members to become involved in a growing way with ministries to people who not only need the Gospel but who face circumstances of tangible need or difficulty. While these needs exist everywhere, they are often more prevalent in the concentrated populations of the cities. These concentrations of population offer great opportunity for ministry because city programs can address the needs of many people in close proximity.

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**mna urban & mercy**  
ministries



# DEACONS SERVING IN THE LOCAL CHURCH



## A HELP IN TIME OF TROUBLE