

Wanted—Conference Deacons

The Conference Deacon program has been in place since September 2011.

The purpose of the Conference Deacon Program is to recruit and commission more than 60 individuals—both lay people and clergy (retired and clergy who are not currently serving in parish positions)—to visit the congregations of the Conference on behalf of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Our goal is to have the deacons' visit each church assigned in our Conference 2 times a year in order to:

- bring greetings on behalf of the Conference
- offer a word of thanks for OCWM participation
- encourage giving to OCWM and the special offerings of the UCC
- most importantly, build relationships and strengthen the connection between the local and wider church.

This was an ambitious undertaking—currently we have recruited approximately 35 deacons. Based on the success of this program and the requests from churches not currently assigned a deacon, we hope you will prayerfully consider the importance of this connection between the local and wider church and consider volunteering. If interested, please contact Joyce Bathke by phone at 314-409-2929 or email joyce.bathke@redcross.org.

Missouri Mid-South Conference
United Church of Christ

Conference Deacon Covenanted Ministry Position Description

Purpose:

The Missouri Mid-South Conference Deacon program is fundamental to the development of a system that is based on relationship between congregations and individuals (rather than relationships solely between Conference staff and congregations/individuals). These Conference Deacons are not “staff” in the normal sense of the word, but are lay and clergy leaders (some younger, some older) chosen to serve because of their spiritual, emotional and ecclesial maturity and who will serve as “connectors” within the body. Conference Deacon’s authority is more informal than formal (that is, they have no “constitutional powers” but become effective as they develop trust and express care and concern for those of the body).

Expectations:

- Conference Deacons will work in teams of two.
- Approximately four or five congregations will be assigned to each team.
- Each team is asked to visit each of their congregations for Sunday morning worship at least 2 times each year.
- During these visits the Deacons will share greetings and news from the Conference.
- In addition to bringing greetings deacons should express the appreciation and thanks of the conference and wider church for the congregational support of OCWM.
- Conference Deacons will be asked to present OCWM certificates during one of their visits
- Be available for celebration of significant days and events in the life of congregations
- If invited, visit with each council/consistory once a year.
- Be the information link between Conference staff and the needs, concerns, joys, and celebrations of our local churches.

Gifts and Skills:

Conference Deacons will be people who have:

- been transformed by the Gospel;
- have demonstrated love for and participation in the life of the United Church of Christ beyond the congregation;

- modeled a lifestyle of integrity;
- exhibited appropriate relational skills;
- practiced the spiritual disciplines including stewardship
- Subscribe to a Conference Deacon Code of Ethics created by the Leadership Development Committee of the Conference Council which will parallel the Ministerial Code of Ethics.

Accountability and Support:

Conference Deacons will be accountable to the Leadership Development Committee and the Conference Minister.

Annual training and up-dates will be provided to support the role of the Conference Deacons.

Term: Three years (may be reappointed)