

2h. Deacons

The Deacons assist and cooperate with the professional minister(s) and church staff in attending to the spiritual needs of the church and the community.

WORSHIP: Together, they facilitate and manage the worship experience, including the content, format, and appearance. They assist in the preparation and administration of the sacraments and help create a worshipful environment at all services of the church.

PASTORAL CARE: The Deacons sponsor and empower congregants interested in visitations to members shut-in their homes or in nursing homes. They also sponsor and empower congregants interested in providing Parish Nursing services. They lead any initiative to institute a formal laity Pastoral Care Training program such as UCC's Called to Care and/or the Stephens Ministry model. The Deacons may also lead any training and sponsor any on-going support group of Caregivers.

MUSIC: With the absence in the Church of a formal Music Committee, the Deacons may assume roles and responsibilities for worship music. Together with the professional staff, they may schedule guest musicians, organize and sponsor additional music groups beyond the Chancel Choir. They may explore and develop Children's Choirs, Adult hand bell choirs, and/or the integration of contemporary music. They may be the sponsoring committee and conduit for the Chancel Choir to bring issues to Church Council and ensure adequate funding, facilities, resources and support.