

School of Deacon Ministry

National Capital Baptist Convention of Washington, DC & Vicinity

2019 Annual Session of Congress of Christian Education

Rev. Charles McNeill, Jr., President

Rev. Dr. Leroy Gilbert, President of NCBC Congress

Rev. Alfred Wright, Dean, NCBC Congress

Five (5) Day Evening Sessions -- May 13-17, 2018 (M-F) -- 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

G. James Gholson Middle School – 900 Nalley Road, Landover, MD 20785

Theme: “A Biblical Literacy Campaign: TO KNOW, PRACTICE & STUDY GOD’S WORD!”

Director of the School for Deacons: Dr. Willie T. Lawson

The Purpose for School for Deacon Ministry

The purpose of Deacons is delineated in the book of Acts. In the New Testament, the word usually translated "serve" is the Greek word *diakoneo*, which literally means "through the dirt." It refers to an attendant, a waiter, or one who ministers to another. From this word we get the English word "deacon." We first see the word "deacon" used this way in the book of Acts. "And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables" (Acts 6:2). The men who were giving themselves to feeding the flock by preaching and teaching realized that it wasn't right for them to leave those activities to wait tables, so they found some other men who were willing to serve, and put them in place to minister to the church's physical needs while the elders or pastors ministered to their spiritual needs. It was a better use of the resources they were given, and a better use of everyone's gifts. It also got more people involved in serving and helping one another.

Today, for the biblical church, these roles are essentially the same. Elders and pastors are to "preach the word...reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2), and deacons are to be appointed to take care of everything else. In a modern church, this might include taking on administrative or organizational tasks, ushering, being responsible for building maintenance, or volunteering to be the church treasurer. It depends on the need and the gifts of the available men.

The responsibilities of a deacon are not clearly listed or outlined; they are assumed to be

everything that does not include the duties of an elder or pastor, which is to preach, teach, and exhort. But qualifications for a deacon's character are clearly outlined in Scripture. They are to be blameless, the husband of one wife, a good household manager, respectable, honest, not addicted to alcohol and not greedy (1 Timothy 3:8-12). According to the Word, the office of deacon is an honor and a blessing. "For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus" (1 Timothy 3:13).

The curriculum at Congress is designed to help deacons embrace their mission and vision of deacons as outlined in (Acts 6:3-4, I Timothy 2:7); to be a shining example of Christian virtues (I Timothy 3:8-13, Philippians 4:8); to be humble (I Peter 5:6, Galatians 5:13, and to establish a bond with people in the convention, promoting openness, encouragement and trust (I Timothy 3:1-7, Galatians 5:22-25)

We envision to establish a curriculum to:

- Assist the Pastor in implementing his vision and programs.
- Assist in carrying on the business of the church.
- Assist in the worship, baptismal and communion services.
- Make visitations to the known sick and shut-in members providing spiritual and physical support.
- Address the needs of those who request spiritual, physical and social help.
- Project a posture of humbleness, dignity and seriousness.
- Engage in church activities that promote evangelism and missionary service, promoting the Great Commission
 - --Inspiring fellow Christians to aspire to conformation into the Deacons Ministry.
 - --Addressing on all levels the needs of the Church and the community.
 - --More active participation in all areas of church life.
 - --Guidance to other organizations within the church.
 - --Stronger fellowship with each other and the Church family.

The focus of the School for Deacons at the 2019 Annual Congress of Christian Education is to explore, discuss meaningful and effective ways how Deacons may function as catalysts for biblical literacy in their churches.

Our ultimate mission is to assist and support the ministry in advancing the spiritual and temporal well-being of people in our churches and communities.