

**National Capital Baptist Convention of DC & Vicinity
Dr. Damion Briggs, President**

**National Capital Congress of Christian Education
Dr. Artie Polk, President
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**SCHOOL FOR DEACONS AND DEACONESS
DEACON HOLLOWAY COATS, JR.**

***2026 Congress Theme: “United in Christ: Growing Together to Serve God”
(Ephesians 4:16)***

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026, 7:00PM TO 9:00PM

COURSE TITLE: Servants of Christ’s Church: The Silent Ligaments

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course explores the essential and often unseen role of deacons and deaconesses as *servant leaders* within the Body of Christ. Using the **metaphor of ligaments in the human body**, participants will examine how deacons and deaconesses function as *silent ligaments*—connecting, supporting, stabilizing, and strengthening the Church.

By examining notable and often used parts of the body (feet and ankles, legs, knees, hips, arms, hands, wrist, elbow, shoulders, spine, neck, and head), the course draws clear **biblical parallels** to our ministry responsibilities. Participants will gain both a **training framework for emerging servant leaders** and suggestions for evaluating effectiveness within the diaconate ministry.

OBJECTIVES

- Define ligaments and summarize their general function in human anatomy.
- Learn how silent ligaments are critical to sustaining unity in the Church.
- List key structural body ligaments and their connections that support alignment and movement.
- Show parallels between the functions of body ligaments—such as connecting, supporting, and stabilizing—and the responsibilities of servant leadership.
- Utilize this training to enhance the effectiveness of your diaconate ministry.

SYLLABUS

- Exercise readiness and foundation (Eph 6:14-15; Acts 6:3)
- Exhibit strength and movement of Church (Acts 6:7; Eph 4:3; Matt 28:19-20)
- Embrace unity, sustain core stability, and bear burdens steadily (Gal 6:2; Num 11:17)

- Extend, reach, touch and carry (Psalm 90:17; Prov 31:20)
- Encourage flexibility and lifting (Gal 5:13; 1 Cor 10:33; 2 Cor 4:5)
- Ensure appropriate alignment and maintain correct posture (Titus 2:1)
- Exhibit support and submission to the Pastor (Job 41:22; Heb 13:17)
- Embody wisdom (Eph 5:23; 1 Cor 11:3; James 1:5; 1 John 2:27; Col 4:6)

RECOMMENDED READING

- *The Holy Bible* (KJV)
- Gordon, Norman H. *The Pastor and Deacon Ministry: The Return to the Biblical Model*. Palmer Publishing, 2023.
- Nichols, Harold. *The Work of the Deacon & Deaconess*. Second revised edition, Judson Press, 2014.
- Hiscox, Edward T. *Principles and Practices, of Baptist Churches*. Sheldon, 1860, eBook at <http://catalog.hathitrust.org/api/volumes/oclc/80096783.html>. See pp. 83– 110 Church Officers)
- Brown, J. Newton. *The Baptist Church Manual, Containing the Declaration of Faith, Covenant, Rules of Order*. ... American Baptist Publication Society, 1420 Chestnut Street., 1853. See Article of Faith XIII. Of a Gospel Church ref: Scriptural Officers

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