

APPENDIX A

Ecumenical Survey on the Diaconate

The following survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Please answer the following questions to the best of your ability. All of your answers will be kept confidential. I greatly appreciate your assistance.

General Demographics

1. What is your denomination?
 - A. Episcopalian
 - B. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
 - C. Other Lutheran denomination: _____
 - D. Roman Catholic
 - E. United Methodist

2. What is your sex?
 - A. Male
 - B. Female

3. In what state do you live? _____

4. How long have you been a member of the diaconate in your denomination?
 - A. Less than 1 year
 - B. Between 1-5 years
 - C. Between 6 and 10 years
 - D. Between 11 and 20 years
 - E. Longer than 20 years

5. Which of the following terms do you use to describe your diaconal office?
 - A. Deacon
 - B. Diaconal Minister
 - C. Deaconess
 - D. Synodical Deacon
 - E. Other _____

6. Are you being paid for the work you do as a deacon?
 - A. Yes
 - B. No

7. Please describe your primary place of work as a deacon:
 - A. I work primarily in a church, denominational office, or agency directly related to the church.
 - B. I work primarily in a context which is not directly church related (social service agency, etc.).
 - C. My work is a mixture of church and non-church employment.
 - D. My work situation is not described accurately by the above options. Describe your work situation here if you wish: _____

Education/Formation Experience

For questions 8-19 below please:

(1) indicate how much emphasis was placed on the following subject areas of your formal *theological / diaconal* education prior to entering the diaconate:

1. **Emphasized a lot**
2. **Emphasized somewhat**
3. **Emphasized a little**
4. **Not emphasized**

AND

(2) indicate how beneficial you believe each area to be for your *current* life and ministry:

1. **Very beneficial**
2. **Somewhat beneficial**
3. **Slightly beneficial**
4. **Not at all beneficial**

<u>Area</u>	<u>Educational emphasis</u>				<u>Current benefit</u>			
8. Biblical Studies	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
9. Spiritual Formation	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
10. Church History	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
11. Christian Education	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
12. Theology	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
13. Evangelism	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
14. Pastoral Care	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
15. Liturgy	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
16. Preaching/Proclamation	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
17. Church Polity	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
18. Social Ministry (work among the poor, social justice, etc)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
19. Ethics	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

20. Please list below the academic degrees, certificates, or licensing programs you have completed as part of your education for the diaconate.

21. What is the highest level of education you have completed
- A. High School
 - B. Some College
 - C. College degree
 - D. Some graduate school
 - E. Graduate degree

Continuing Education

22. What resources (books, authors, denominational offices) were most helpful in gaining an understanding of the diaconate either prior to or since becoming a member of the diaconate?

23. What resources would you like to be able to access more easily now for your own continuing education and personal growth? (check as many as apply)

Academic courses such as _____

Mentoring opportunities

Networking opportunities with other members of the diaconate in your denomination

Networking opportunities with other members of the diaconate in other denominations

Newsletters/periodicals providing theological reflection on the diaconate

E-mail or internet discussion groups for members of the diaconate

Retreat opportunities for members of the diaconate

Spiritual direction

Continuing education which is specific to my area of expertise

Other _____

Other _____

23. If the resources you named above could be made available using internet or electronic mail technology how easily could you access this technology?

- A. Very easily
- B. Somewhat easily
- C. Not easily, but could be done
- D. Not at all
- E. Unsure

Time/Value Study

Please rank each activity according to:

(1) the amount of time spent in that ministry:

1. **Frequently (F)**
2. **Somewhat frequently (S)**
3. **Rarely (R)**
4. **Never (N)**

AND

(2) how important you feel it is that you actually perform the activity:

1. **Above Average importance (AA)**
2. **Average importance (A)**
3. **Below Average importance (BA)**
4. **Not important at all (N)**

Liturgical	Time Spent				Importance			
	F	S	R	N	AA	A	BA	N
24. Planning worship services	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
25. Worship space preparation	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
26. Providing leadership in the liturgy	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
27. Music ministry	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
28. Presiding at funerals	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
29. Officiating at marriages	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
30. Administering Baptism	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
31. Assisting at celebrations of the Lord's Supper	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
32. Distributing communion to the sick and home-bound	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
33. Preaching	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
34. Prayer meeting leadership	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
35. Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Education	F	S	R	N	AA	A	BA	N
36. Teaching adults	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
37. Teaching youth (ages 12 to 18)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
38. Teaching children	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
39. Christian education committee work	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
40. Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

Pastoral Care	Time Spent				Importance			
	F	S	R	N	AA	A	BA	N
41. Counseling	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
42. Visitation (home, hospital, prisons, etc.)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
43. Administrative work	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
44. Committee work for denominational regional offices	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
45. Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
Social Action/Outreach	F	S	R	N	AA	A	BA	N
46. Involvement in politics (local, state, or national)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
47. Social ministry with the impoverished	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
48. Community organizing	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
49. Serving on the board of area social service organizations	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
50. Evangelism	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4
51. Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4

52. In which of the above activities do you feel you are most effective? Please list no more than three activities:

53. In which of the above activities (which you perform at least on rare occasions) do you feel least effective?

54. As a member of the diaconate in my church I feel that I have too little authority to carry out the responsibilities of my ministry.

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Disagree
- D. Strongly Disagree
- D. Can't decide

55. I feel that I am sufficiently qualified for my particular ministry.

- A. Strongly Agree
- B. Agree
- C. Disagree
- D. Strongly Disagree
- E. Can't decide

56. I would encourage others to become a member of the diaconate in my denomination

- A. Yes
- B. No
- C. Maybe

57. How would you describe your level of "job satisfaction" as a member of the diaconate in your denomination?

- A. Very satisfied
- B. Moderately satisfied
- C. Not very satisfied
- D. Very dissatisfied
- E. Can't decide

Using the scale below, how would you rate your relationship with the following persons in your denomination?

58. The bishop (or equivalent ministry area supervisor if your denomination does not have bishops):

- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
- B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
- C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- E. Does not pertain

59. Other ministry area supervisors (such as district superintendent, bishop's assistant, etc.)

- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
- B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
- C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- E. Does not pertain

60. Presbyters (priests, elders, pastors) I associate with in ministry:

- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
- B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
- C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- E. Does not pertain

61. Denominational regional offices with whom I work:

- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
- B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
- C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
- E. Does not pertain

62. My pastor:
- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
 - B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
 - C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - E. Does not pertain
63. My local church:
- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
 - B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
 - C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - E. Does not pertain
64. Other deacons with whom I work:
- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
 - B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
 - C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - E. Does not pertain
65. Laypersons in leadership with whom I work:
- A. I feel like a team member whose work is personally appreciated
 - B. I feel like a team member whose work is not known personally, but which is appreciated
 - C. There is very little feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - D. There is no feeling of being a team member whose work is appreciated
 - E. Does not pertain

Using the scale below, how would you rate the *vision* of the diaconate by the following persons?

66. The bishop (or equivalent ministry area supervisor if your denomination does not have bishops):
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable
67. Other ministry area supervisor (such as district superintendent, bishop's assistant, etc.)
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable

68. Area presbyters I have met other than my own pastor (priests, elders, pastors):
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable

69. My pastor:
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable

70. Laypersons:
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable

71. Diaconate colleagues:
- A. There is a very clear vision of the role of the diaconate
 - B. There is somewhat of an understanding of its role, but nothing very specific
 - C. There is some confusion about its role
 - D. There is much confusion about its role
 - E. I don't really know
 - F. Not applicable

72. How often do you meet with other members of the diaconate in your area for fellowship or prayer?
- A. More than once a week
 - B. Every few weeks
 - C. Monthly
 - D. Every few months
 - E. A few times a year

73. How hopeful are you about the future of the diaconate in your denomination?
- A. Very hopeful
 - B. Somewhat hopeful
 - C. Slightly hopeful
 - D. Not hopeful at all

74. Please elaborate on your answer to the previous question. What are you hopeful about? What concerns you about the diaconate in your denomination? Use additional paper to answer this question if you wish.

Thank you very much for your time and willingness to complete this survey!