

Welcome to

# Basic Training for Deacons

COLE – Central Florida Presbytery

Saturday, February 20, 2021

9:15 – 10:30 AM Workshop

Jeff Hosmer & Lynn Miller from North Lake Presbyterian Church

# Brief introductions

- Name
- Congregation
- Deacon? Length of time as Deacon?

# **G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE**

## *G-2.0201 Deacon Defined*

**The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry.**

# **G-2.02 DEACONS: THE MINISTRY OF COMPASSION AND SERVICE**

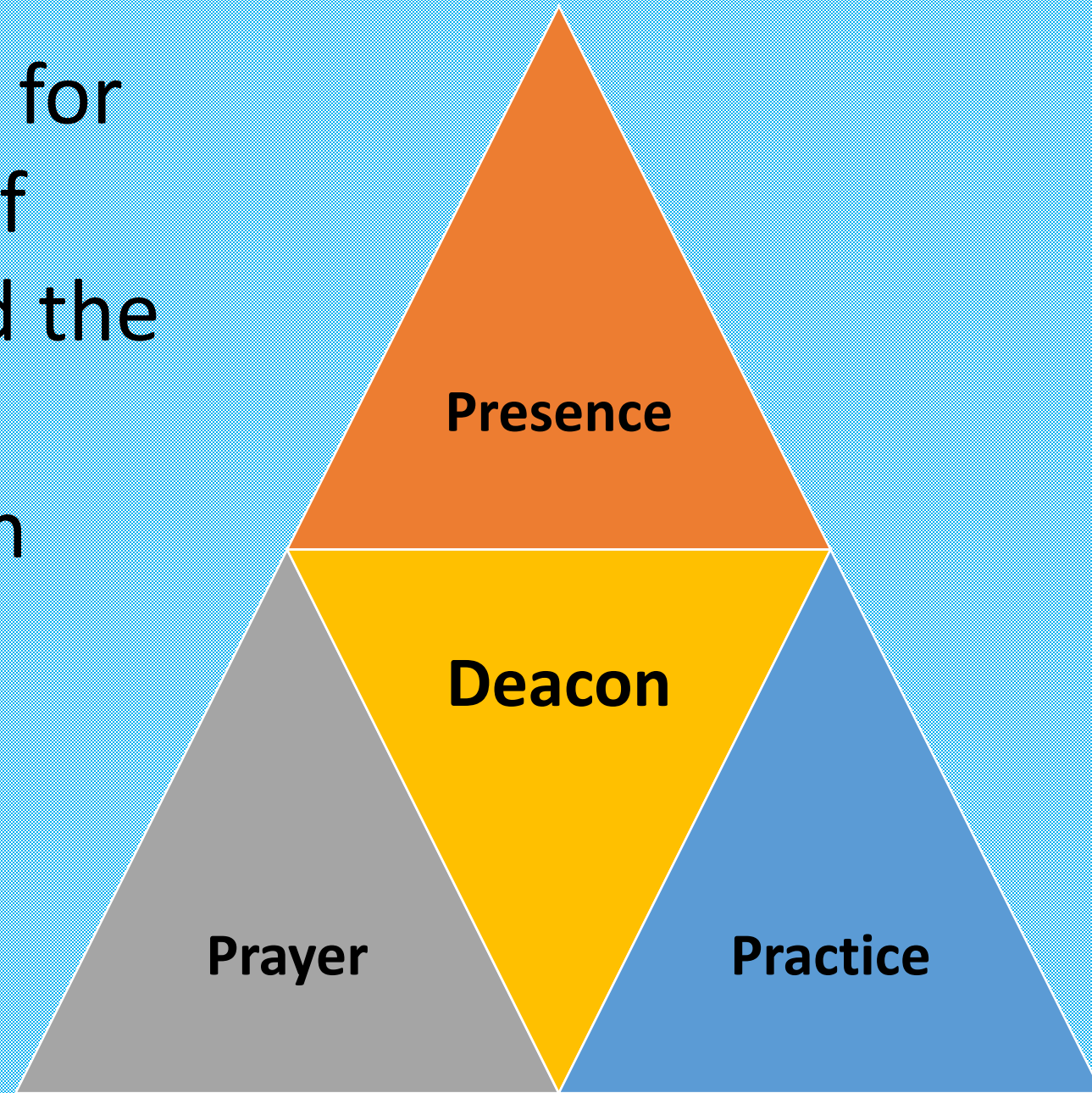
*G-2.0202 Under Authority of the Session*

**Deacons may be individually commissioned or organized as a board of deacons. In either case, their ministry is under the supervision and authority of the session. Deacons may also be given special assignments in the congregation, such as caring for members in need, handling educational tasks, cultivating liberality in giving, collecting and disbursing monies to specific persons or causes, or overseeing the buildings and property of the congregation. Deacons shall assume other duties as may be delegated to them by the session, including assisting with the Lord's Supper. (W-3.0414).**

# Deacon in Scripture

- ***Diakonos*** in Greek – deacon, servant, attendant, table waiter
- **Designated office** or leader with responsibility in early church
- **Acts 6** – selection of the seven to assist the apostles by administering the feeding ministry; serving in a literal sense; apostles formally laid hands on them and prayed for them
- **Rom. 16:1** – only deacon mentioned by name = Phoebe
- **1 Tim 3:8-13** – qualifications for deacons: serious, not deceitful, temperate, not overindulgent, not in it for what they can get out of it, faithful, mature, stable family life.

Framework for  
the office of  
Deacon and the  
Ministry of  
Compassion



# Presence

- Telecare and Zoom
- Listening
- Confidentiality

# Prayer

- Prayer: Faith:: Communication: Relationship
  - Including God in the ministry you offer in His name
  - Building the relationship in both directions
- Before your contact
- During the contact or activity
  - Ask for permission
  - Simple, authentic, God-conscious (not self-conscious)
- Afterwards/follow-up




# Practice

- Specific ways of helping
- Boundaries
- Possible referrals
- Network of care
- Stretcher-bearers



Then some people came, bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them. Mark 2:3 (NRSV)



NLPC Congregational Care ministries:  
e.g. Deacons, Stephen Ministry,  
Healing Team, Grief Support,  
Buddy Ministry,  
Prayer Chain

NLPC  
Pastoral  
Care  
staff

Your NLPC friends and  
connections through  
group relationships

Your family and friends

**Stretcher-Bearers**

I told God I would like to be in training to love people better. I think of how I want to be remembered when I reach the end of my life. I would like to have looked deeply into many eyes; to connect deeply with many souls; to have people know that I noticed them and cared about them and actually loved them.

John Ortberg, SOUL KEEPING, p. 53