

Gwynne Lawlor

From: Gwynne Lawlor <gwynne@lawlor.co.za>
To: 'Fr Tom Amoore'
Subject: RE: Motion on Deacons.

Hi Tom,

There are a few points I would like to see changed.

1. *The issue of a deacon resigning when a new parish priest is appointed.* (5)

The sentiment in the archdeaconries I did visit was that this seemed to be going too far, and if deacons had to resign then why not also assistant priests. It was felt that it was sufficient that any written agreement on a deacon's duties in a parish be renegotiated when a new incumbent is installed in a parish. I agree. I do think rewriting the contract would be good enough. Perhaps we could change the Highveld document accordingly?

2. *Preaching. Once a quarter is perhaps too little.*

I know for myself that the less I preach, the more difficult I find it to get back into preaching. I overcome that by preparing almost every Sunday – even if I know I am not preaching. Perhaps once a month could be considered? Also would need to include training in preaching in the pre- and post-ordination training.

3. *Liturgical duties. — outroad.*

There is no reason why the deacon should not serve every Sunday at the altar, working on different Sundays with different priests in the parish in the different chapelries or outstations, or at different Sunday services if there is more than one service as per a roster. I should think this would be parish specific, but not having a deacon at the altar undermines what we are trying to achieve – to fix in the minds of the parishioners and the clergy that priest and deacon collaborate in a parish setting, and that the deacon is rooted in the liturgy of the church. This does not mean that the deacon always has to be the synaxist – the deacon could share aspects of synaxing with the lay-minister – retaining only that which specifically pertains to the deacon?

4. *As far as age is concerned – why 68 and not 70?*

Deacons are in general non-stipendiary, so are not affected by church pensions. One could argue that they could be licensed up to 68, with the possibility of extending the licence year by year at the Bishop's discretion (upon request by the parish) until they are 70 years of age, or could be assigned to diocesan work instead after 68??

What is the age limit for lay-ministers (70 or 75?).

Before we circulate this to the other deacons, I would like to know what you think of the points I have raised.

I am coming up for clergy day – as you know the Bishop has asked us to present on the diaconate – because not all archdeaconries have extended an invitation for us to address them, despite a request from the bishop. I would like to have this document completed by then, and to hand it out at clergy day as a way of smoothing the process (I had handed the previous Highveld document out to the clergy of the archdeaconries I did visit).

I am waiting to hear from the Diocesan Leadership Team, whether or not they are meeting with the IGWA members of the DLT (Fr Maseko and me) on night of 13th before clergy day on 14th. Depending on the day you take off, perhaps we could meet before clergy day?

If not we can resolve over e-mail.

Thanks for all your hard work on behalf of us deacons, Tom, I do not know what we would do without your knowledge and wisdom.

Lots of love to you and Di from both of us shivering in a very chilly Wakkerstroom!

Only thing that helps is a fire, a glass of red wine and a hot water bottle!!!

Gwynne

From: Fr Tom Amoore [<mailto:boksburgang@telkomsa.net>]

Sent: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 12:21 PM