



RPCNA Deacon Round Table [Updated]

Thursday, June 15 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Coordinated by Mr. Kyle Reed

1. On Monday night we heard an address from Dr. Calvin Troup of Geneva College on the theme of 'KNOWING is for Living.' How does what we as Reformed Presbyterians believe about the Bible, about the Westminster Confession, and about Christian wisdom inform the work of "Big D" deacons in the churches? How ought such understanding inform the practical service of "Little D" deacons in our churches? **The goal of this "Knowing is for LIVING" presentation is to stir up the RPCNA to a lively faith and good works in their communities (Heb. 10:24).** We as deacons want to stir you all up to think biblically and confessionally about the role of deacons. Our desire is that each camper would look to and co-labor with the ordained deacons in their churches!
2. How do the Scriptures (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Tim. 3:8-13; Phil. 1:1; Rom. 16:1; Book of 1 Timothy; "Serve" verses) and the RP Standards (RP Testimony 25.8,11 [A-87]; Dir. Church Gov. ch. 3 sec. 3 [D-23]) guide our thinking about the practical, diaconal service of the local church?
3. How does the Reformed faith (e.g. Five Solas, Doctrines of Grace, authority of Scripture, biblical church officers, present reign of Christ) inform your vision and regular duties as a deacon? How does/can what we 'know' as RPs better inform our 'practical service.'
4. The RP Testimony says deacons are to "train the congregation in the use of the members' gifts in the ministry of mercy." How do the "Big-D" deacons in your congregation stir up, mobilize, and assist the "Little-D" deacons (i.e. members) in acts of service?

5. Describe how you as a deacon have been involved in various kinds of duties in the congregation (Dir. Church Gov. D-24):
 - a) Care of members, training others for service?
 - b) Stewardship ministry (church property and finances)?
 - c) Ministry to local of individuals and institutions?
 - d) Duties assigned by the session, congregation, presbytery?

6. What would be helpful from your local session and from your local congregation to encourage you in the work of service in the church?

7. What are open doors you see for service in your community? How do you find those? What are some creative ideas from your church's practice or from your own thinking about how deacons might lead the congregation into more regular and intentional acts of service?

8. How do you balance it all (work, recreation, family, citizenship, church)? How does the Gospel of Christ sustain you in times of discouragement? How does it motivate you to stand up, dust yourself off (Prov. 24:13-16), and once again step into the work of the diaconate (1 Cor. 15:58)? Anything else to share as deacons with the elders, or with church members?

