

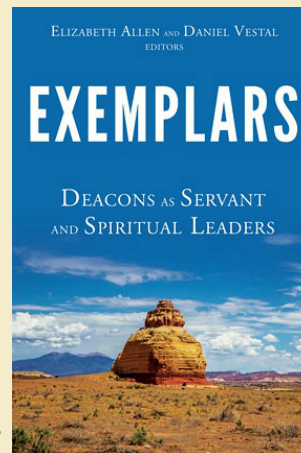
## Table and Towel

July 2016

Dear Friends,

We are pleased and excited to let you know the deacon leadership development workbook, *Exemplars: Deacons as Servant and Spiritual Leaders* has been published and is available at [www.helwys.com/shbooks/exemplars](http://www.helwys.com/shbooks/exemplars).

It was offered for the first time at the CBF General Assembly in Greensboro, and there was a lot of interest expressed. All of us who have had a part in producing this resource believe that it has great potential to help congregations. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of



any help as you introduce *Exemplars* to your diaconate. My contact information is listed below.

The content and format of this workbook is designed to encourage robust conversation within diaconates as well as between deacons, clergy and other laity. For deacons to reach their full potential as servant and spiritual leaders, thoughtful and prayerful conversation must happen. All of us grow spiritually as we listen and speak to one another with open minds and loving hearts. "Exemplars" was born and has been developed out of conversations, and is offered with prayer for the Holy Spirit to use it and the conversations produced to renew today's Church.

The purpose of *Exemplars* is to encourage and inspire deacons to become servant and spiritual leaders as they seek to be "Exemplars" of Christ. The writing team of Guy Sayles, Mike Smith, Carol Younger and Daniel Vestal explored a matrix or framework for individual deacon development as well as formation for an entire diaconate. We believe it can be helpful as a study guide for an individual deacon but will be best used in a group format where deacons study together, hold one another accountable and offer support and encouragement.

### **Who do Deacons Need to *BE*?**

#### Session 1

Deacons are Living Portraits Who are Part of God's Masterpiece

#### Session 2

Deacons are the Beloved Children of God who Experience Grace

#### Session 3

Deacons are Members of Christ's Church who are Gifted with the Spirit

### **What do Deacons Need to *KNOW*?**

#### Session 4

Deacons Know the Scripture and How to Interpret it in the Light of Jesus

#### Session 5

Deacons Learn Church History

#### Session 6

Deacons Think Theologically

### **What do Deacons Need to *DO*?**

#### Session 7

Deacons Practice Public Worship and Private Prayer

Session 8

Deacons Practice Partnership in God's Mission

Session 9

Deacons Practice Creative and Generous Stewardship

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FOR BAPTIST LEADERSHIP OF MERCER UNIVERSITY.

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