



CONCORDIA
DEACONESS
CONFERENCE

BLUES News

BLUES NEWS

An official publication of Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC). Distributed six times a year, it serves our members by circulating professional submissions, devotional thoughts and articles, and member announcements.

Digital subscriptions are free of cost. Print subscriptions for non-members are \$9 for six issues.

All subscription inquiries and submissions can be directed to our newsletter editor at

editor.bluesnews@concordia
deaconesslcms.org or
Trinity Lutheran Church
PO Box 545,
Blackwell, OK 74631-0545.

OUR CONFERENCE

Concordia Deaconess Conference is a free association of certified and LCMS rostered deaconesses, who subscribe to and live by the confessional position of the LCMS.

As a Recognized Service Organization of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, CDC works to provide opportunities for spiritual, personal, and professional growth and fellowship for deaconesses and support for diaconal service in Christ.

Donations for the work of the conference, a 501(c)(3) organization, may be mailed to

Deaconess Kim Schave
5000 Romaine Spring Dr.
Fenton MO 63026

Vol. 26, No. 1—January
Copyright 2014



DEACONESS IDENTITY

Professionalism . . . 1

Ethics . . . 2

Identity . . . 3

The Lord and His Wretched Ones. . . 3

PROFESSIONALISM BY NANCY NEMOYER

The Lord brought the nine founding members of CDC together from diverse backgrounds with common convictions and a shared vision. While there was soon a Constitution with By-Laws, no Code of Ethics was established at that beginning. Conduct and expectations were understood within our small group.

Under the bond of Christ's love we could question, explore, and talk, usually resulting in more clarity about what we stood for as a deaconess conference.

As CDC and the LCMS training programs grew, common education fostered common deaconess formation that the intimacy of nine women living in a 200-mile radius could no longer accomplish. Even then, the numbers were growing and so were the questions about who we are as a body and what commitments were understood to be a part of the Conference. When our 25th anniversary rolled around, it was just the right time to pen a Code of Ethics.

Having a Code of Ethics is not unique to CDC. It is commonly found in other professional fields as well—e.g., social workers, librarians, nurses, educators, or accountants. In our Code of Ethics, as in others, there are three dimensions: core values, responsibilities, and a statement of identity both within the membership and to the public. Aligning ourselves to a code makes us professionals. We are part of a profession and we "profess" a certain set of core beliefs together with others in that same profession.

For the deaconess, professionalism is professing Christ and Him crucified; remembering that we serve Christ in our neighbor, and actually in all that we do in His name; and being Christ-like to those whom we serve in the church and in the world. The Code of Ethics touches on subjects that remind us how we want to carry out this professionalism, whether it be related to the care of the uniform and the cross, a kindly manner, proper delivery of law and gospel,

attitude toward the pastor, bedside manner in the hospital, integrity in tough situations, keeping secrets, cheerleading other deaconesses, or attending CDC conferences.

No code can address all situations, but the statements are a definition of underlying principles, from which life applications can be drawn. CDC statements are based on Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions. These are standards to which the membership can aspire and be held accountable by one another. Yes, it is a statement of law! Yet every member of CDC lives under the Gospel as a forgiven daughter of Christ, and we share that love for one another as sisters in Christ.

Our Code of Ethics grows out of our desire to serve because of Christ's first love for us. We cannot by our own reason come to faith, nor can we by our own will live a right and proper life. But through the work of the Holy Spirit we can do works that grow out of faith. So, as we stumble along, desiring to be His example to church and world, we walk in forgiveness and grace. Our good works are His good works accomplished through us, for the extension of His Kingdom. Thanks be to God!

Nancy E. (Nicol) Nemoier



WHO I AM—AND WHO I AM AS A DEACONESS

Ruth Stallmann

I am a person who was from birth exposed to factors that could later be used by a deaconess in her vocation. I had unusual parents, who didn't really want me. A deaconess needs to have a Christian background. I had the Lord as a parent. I learned early that He was a dominant factor in my life. He had to be because I had so many bleak experiences in my life. I became a teacher, and a chiropractor, and ended up a deaconess. And in my life being a deaconess answered all my needs.

A deaconess is someone who shares her story with others; who prays; who listens; who discerns the needs of those whom she serves. A deaconess does whatever she needs to do in the immediate situation that she is in. I never know whom I am going to see, or whom I will need to serve, or what I will need to do, on any given day. It isn't what I think needs to be done that is important, but what the Lord brings for me to do for the people He brings into my life—even if it is an Alzheimer's patient who needs to walk to a table with me. This is the life of a deaconess.

On the job or in her private life, a deaconess is an ambassador for Christ. She is also someone who takes care to follow through with what she promises to those whom she serves, and she takes time to meet with other deaconesses regularly for mutual support.

Dear sisters, when you are told go and see what you can do—go for it! There's nothing like having the Lord active in your life. It's just fascinating!

Deaconess Emeritus Ruth Stallmann (age 95)



CDC CODE OF ETHICS

Adopted May 18, 2005



PURPOSE

The Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC), affirming its desire to glorify the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—and to reflect His love and grace in Christ, establishes this Code of Ethics. The Code, rooted in Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, is intended to establish clear standards and definitions for the professional behavior and practices of its members. This Code of Ethics expresses the Concordia Deaconess Conference's unity of belief and outlines members' responsibilities and obligations to God, to the church, to colleagues and to each individual who is to be served. This Code serves the conference as a mirror, rule and curb, and is intended to teach, strengthen and affirm its members.

PREAMBLE TO THE CODE OF ETHICS

The primary mission of the CDC is to support deaconesses as they bring Christ's caring presence, love, and perspective to others. A deaconess points to Christ, who is present in Word and Sacrament, provided by the Office of the Public Ministry.

Biblical history and the tradition of the LC-MS have shaped CDC's Code of Ethics. Diaconal service is mentioned in the New

Testament, as in the case of Phoebe, a deaconess of the church at Cenchrea (Romans 16:1). Throughout subsequent centuries, interest in formal diaconates flourished and waned. Following a revival of diaconal ministry in nineteenth-century Europe, German Lutherans brought their vision of diaconal service to the United States. In 1919, the Lutheran Deaconess Association within the Synodical Conference was established, and in 1934, the Lutheran Deaconess Conference was founded. Changes within these two groups prompted nine deaconesses to establish the CDC in 1980, after the LC-MS voted to establish its own deaconess training program in 1979.

Members of the CDC support the Office of the Public Ministry and serve in an auxiliary office. Commissioned by the church, a deaconess provides diaconal service with emphasis on spiritual care, teaching the faith, and works of mercy. In this way Christ's own peace, hope and mercy are conveyed to those in need. A deaconess may be called to serve in the parish, in institutional settings, or in foreign and domestic missions.

The following statements are an expression of these principles regarding the professional conduct of a deaconess.

THEOLOGICAL ETHICS

In her promises made at commissioning, a deaconess commits herself to serve in accordance with the Word of God, the Ecumenical Creeds, and the Confessions of the Church. Therefore, a deaconess of the CDC is a woman who:

1. Believes, teaches, and confesses the Scriptures as the infallible and inerrant Word of God and the Lutheran Confessions as a true exposition of that Word.
2. Points others to Word and Sacrament provided by the Office of the Public Ministry.
 - A. Upholds the deaconess office as auxiliary to the Office of the Public Ministry which it supports and assists.
 - B. Refrains from performing the distinctive roles of the Office of the Public Ministry: public preaching of the Word, administering the Sacraments, and exercising the Office of the Keys.
3. Maintains a life rooted in Word and Sacrament through worship, confession and absolution, study and prayer.
4. Is a communicant member in good standing in an LCMS congregation or Partner Church.

PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

By the grace of God a deaconess is committed to grow in love for those she serves, to strive for excellence in her skills, and to adorn the Gospel with a godly life (John 13). In accord with the promises made at her commissioning, a deaconess of the CDC shall strive to:

1. Aptly express the faith in word and deed.
2. Properly apply the distinction between Law and Gospel in her care-giving and teaching.
3. Continue education in the Scriptures and theology.
4. Continue education that is necessary to provide excellent service in her setting.
5. Demonstrate a servant attitude, e.g., loving, compassionate, hospitable,

- selfless, sincere, humble, respectful, approachable, encouraging, nurturing.
- 6. Maintain standards of professional integrity, e.g., uses appropriate language, speaks the truth in love, is trustworthy, manages time well, fulfills responsibilities, works diligently, and resolves conflict according to Biblical principles. A deaconess respects the work of her colleagues, speaks the truth in love, and uses appropriate channels to express differences.
- 7. Maintain confidentiality, except in cases where immediate danger is perceived or safety becomes an issue.
- 8. Maintain government standards as they apply to her position; i.e., mandatory reporting, privacy and confidentiality laws.
- 9. Seek opportunities to extend the Church's hand of mercy to the household of faith and the community.
- 10. Exercise servant leadership without prejudice or favoritism.
- 11. Uphold the sanctity of human life from conception to death.
- 12. Demonstrate competency in her areas of responsibility; i.e., youth, music, education, care-giving, developmental disabilities.
- 13. Make use of allotted time for vacation and time off, maintaining healthy limits and boundaries for personal and family life.

- 14. Be devoted to the well-being of others: physically, spiritually, and emotionally.
- 15. Remain within her competence in counseling situations and refer to other professionals when needed.
- 16. Strive to avoid overlapping relationships that result in the impairment of professional discretion and impartial judgment.
- 17. Maintain appropriate sexual boundaries.
- 18. Limit sexual intimacy to heterosexual marriage as instituted by God.
- 19. Neither accept nor offer gifts that involve expectations that would extend, curtail or alter the service offered.
- 20. Encourage and uplift sister deaconesses.
- 21. Demonstrate commitment to her professional organizations, including the CDC.
- 22. Be aware of warning signs in her own behavior and mood and seek help to address these needs.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please send wedding, birth, and death information to April Ramsey, our CDC Prayer Coordinator, at cdcprayers@comcast.net or through her directory contact information.

Mary Moerbe has published a children's book, *How Can I Help? God's Calling For Kids* (CPH).

DEACONESS IDENTITY

Joyce A. Ostermann

The age-old question in the Missouri Synod is "what is a deaconess"? In the early years (1970s) when we began our quest to establish an LCMS deaconess training program, our group frequently appealed to synod boards and committees—comprised of experienced synod leaders, both clergy and lay, men and women—where we would give a presentation requesting the establishment of a synod training program and then ask for questions. The first question was always, "What is a deaconess?" Thirty-five years later I realize that question should have been, "Who is a deaconess?"

Deaconess identity is established by the woman's love for Christ and her desire to serve Him. In the LCMS this also means that she has met the requirements for rigorous academic training and has placed herself under the authority of Synod. She has pledged herself to the inerrancy of Holy Scripture, the creeds, and the Book of Concord. Deaconesses in Concordia Deaconess Conference also have a group identity in the privilege to wear the conference uniform, including the very special CDC insignia and gold cross.

CDC deaconesses are everywhere. The distinctive blue uniform with gold arm insignia can be seen in many Synod publications and news releases. Live pictures from the 2013 LCMS convention scanned CDC deaconess uniforms at delegate tables, reading a resolution from the podium and playing other significant roles in the life of our Synod.

For the founding "mothers" of Concordia Deaconess Conference, these are thrilling moments. All praise to God!

Joyce A. Ostermann

CALENDAR

February 15th—Deadline for Annual Dues or Waiver Requests.

February 15th also deadline for March BLUES News: Words from Abroad. We encourage our international workers to share their experience and wisdom.

CDC OFFICERS

President:
Cheryl D. Naumann
Vice President:
Sara Lemon
Secretary:
Jennifer Phillips
Treasurer:
Kim Schave
Membership:
Heidi Bishop
Conference Logistics:
Amanda Bundy
Spiritual and Professional Growth:
Sandra Bowers

QUICK CONTACT INFORMATION

Spiritual Counselor:
Reverend Kevin Loughran
(loughran_kevin@yahoo.com, c: 727-612-9782)

Prayer requests can be emailed to the prayer coordinator at cdcprayers@comcast.net.

Digital pictures can go to photos.cdc@gmail.com for publication or other conference uses.

Newsletter submissions and suggestions can be sent to editor.bluesnews@concordiadeaconesslcms.org.

Members may purchase extra cross pins (\$10) or insignias (\$7) from Heidi Bishop at 101 N. Spring St, Elgin, IL 60120.

WHAT IS MY WANT? "TO SERVE THE LORD AND HIS WRETCHED ONES"

Betty Mulholland

"Working in faith. Laboring in Love" is the motto of a Concordia Deaconess Conference deaconess. In order to serve people who are in a state of need, down trodden or hurting in any way, compassion is needed to care for them.

Keeping both feet on Scripture by beginning and ending each day in God's Word, the deaconess knows that the Bible says of our Lord in many places, "and He had compassion on them." We strive to emulate our Lord.

Compassion is shown by the deaconess as she holds a mother in her arms—weeping with her—for the loss of her child; or as she listens and guides the "neglected and misunderstood" teenager. Immediately and long after, she shows compassion to those who have lost loved ones or possessions in a disaster.

In foreign countries a deaconess may be the only Christian around and the compassion she shows to the people with whom she is working is an astounding new experience to the unbeliever!

Deaconesses who serve in administrative positions bring compassion to the lives of their colleagues as they provide for the smooth running of those things that are necessary for the work of the kingdom of God; and those who teach show compassion by being well prepared and patient, with love for every child no matter how much or how little the child knows of Jesus.

A deaconesses might have the privilege of showing compassion to the dying by holding their hand, singing hymns and Psalms, and praying with them as they depart this life. Even in retirement deaconesses can show compassion to those with whom they daily rub shoulders by assisting them in meeting their various special needs.

There are many elderly alone in their homes who are forgotten by their families. It is the compassion shown by the deaconess that brings comfort and hope to people of Christ when their biological family forgets them. Whatever job description deaconesses have, moments of compassion are a big part of our lives.

The deaconess knows she has the true deaconess spirit when she can look forward "WITH JOY" to cutting the gnarled, yellow, hardened toe nails of an old grandpa!—Now *that's* compassion!

Betty Mulholland

ABOUT THIS ISSUE'S AUTHORS

Betty Mulholland, Ruth Stallmann, Joyce Ostermann, and Nancy Nemoyer were founding members of CDC and are still members today. Ruth was the first CDC President; Joyce the second CDC President and Chairman of the Committee that penned the Constitution; Nancy the first CDC Secretary and the first Director of LCMS deaconess training at Concordia University Chicago, from 1980-90. Betty taught early deaconess formation classes at CUC and is currently the CDC Encourager.

ANUNCIO

El Código de Ética de los CDC está disponible a petición de los concordiadeaconess@conferencelcms@yahoo.com.

6821 Main Street Union, IL 60181

