



Michigan District Request to be Served by a Deacon

15.6 A REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO BE SERVED BY A LAYMAN SERVING AS DEACON

Having considered our present situation carefully with the assistance of our circuit visitor and others, and having asked for the guidance and direction of our gracious God, we have come to the conclusion that at this time, the best way to provide pastoral service in our congregation is to obtain the services of a certified church worker, lay or district lay assistant to serve us as a deacon.

Therefore, we formally request permission of the district president to authorize the services of a DEACON to provide for our spiritual needs under the supervision of an ordained pastor in accordance with the established district and Synod policies and guidelines.

We also understand and agree that the ultimate spiritual oversight (*episkopé*) of our congregation shall be assumed by the ordained supervising pastor.

We further understand and agree that this permission, when granted by the district president, expires and must be renewed by December 31st of each year.

Finally, when this permission is granted and the services of a deacon have been obtained, we agree and pledge ourselves to follow and carry out faithfully and cheerfully during the time that we are being served by the deacon the provisions of "A Policy Concerning the Use of Deacons" (pp. 3-4); "Guidelines for a Pastor Supervising the Work of a Deacon" (pages 5-6); and "Guidelines for Congregations Regarding the Performance of Pastoral Functions When No Ordained Pastor is Available" (pages 7-9).

Please print and sign.

For the Congregation Located at: _____

President: _____

(or Secretary): _____

Deacon: _____

Circuit Visitor: _____

Supervising Pastor: _____

Date: _____

For Use by District President's Office

Permission Granted

Permission Denied

District President: _____

Date: _____

[Note: Copies of the completed and signed documents will be made available to the district president (original), congregation, circuit visitor, deacon, and supervising pastor.]

Renewal of this agreement is required each year.