

LITTLE CHURCH ON THE PRAIRIE BOARD OF DEACONS 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

G-2.0201 of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) Book of Order defines the office of Deacon. *“The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress.”*

There are twenty-one members of the Board of Deacons of The Little Church on The Prairie. Members of the congregation are prayerfully contacted by a member of the church Nominating Committee to serve as Deacon. Each member who agrees to serve as a Deacon commits to serve a three-year term; with one third rotating off each term. Terms of office begin in June of one year and end in May of the following year. Officers of the Board of Deacons may be: Moderator, Vice-Moderator, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer. These Deacons comprise the Executive Board. Deacons are responsible to the Session of The Little Church on the Prairie to carry out the ministry responsibilities of the Board of Deacons.

Current Board of Deacons members are: Edith Wallace, Moderator, Gerry Mc Gowen, Recording Secretary, Carol Starr, Corresponding Secretary and Shirley Burrows, Treasurer. Jan Edwards provides a monthly report to be printed in the *Prairie Chimes*. Roger Church, Julie Phillips, Esther Henderson, Bud Starr, Rex Swartz, Tim Gary, Dottie Rider, Odell Wallace, Floyd Collins, Betty Coates, Rex Swartz, Cynthia Powell, Donna Powell, Kiyo Scott, and Barbara Riggs are current Deacons. Pastor Cheryl McClanahan provides pastor support.

During this past year, our God called home our beloved Sue Gary to him. Sue’s perception and compassion served her well as a Deacon. The entire board was honored to join Tim and his family as Sue was remembered at her memorial service and reception in September 2011.

Deacons have red name badges they regularly wear for worship and fellowship. These name badges easily identify the wearer as a Deacon.

Deacons do their work in a variety of ways to minister to the congregation and community.

MONTHLY CONGREGATION CARE DEACON is available to members, friends and the community when a helping hand, access to resources, a visit, or information about available community resources. The contact information for the CONGREGATIONAL CARE DEACON is printed monthly in *Prairie Chimes*.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS
2011 ANNUAL REPORT page 2

MEMORIAL RECEPTIONS are coordinated with family members, and Deacons consider it a privilege to be asked to provide love and support to family and community members. Deacons are working to split memorial responsibilities with a reception coordinator and a sanctuary coordinator. With this split, it is felt families will be more supported and cared for.

PUBLICITY regarding Board of Deacons' activities and/or needs is included in the monthly Prairie Chimes, Sunday worship bulletins, and announcements from the pulpit.

Deacons prepare COMMUNION and assist with serving communion to the congregation at regularly scheduled worship services under the direction of pastoral staff. In addition, communion equipment is maintained, and the number of communicants is reported to session in writing.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY offers support and recognition when friends and congregation members reach significant birthdays, experience a death in the family, are hospitalized, or other life-changing events with notes or greeting cards.

DEACONS' FUND is supported from offerings given by the congregation three times a year for the express purpose of compassionate, caring financial service to members, and friends of Little Church on the Prairie.

SPECIAL ACTIVITIES have included:

- Back to school event - provided food and drinks to approximately 300 children and adults. This was a collaborative event with other community organizations providing school supplies.
- Thanksgiving food baskets - 278 baskets providing food for approximately 1200 Lakewood residents.
- Deacons provided the congregation the opportunity to support a Giving Tree specifically for elementary age children.
- Spring banquet in 2011 was refocused to feature friends and members who are 80+. There were approximately 75 "Super Seniors" in attendance.

- Deacons provided funds to The Tacoma Rescue Mission for the purchase of pajamas and underwear for children who are homeless.
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance was provided Deacons' funds to use in their response to needs in the wake of natural disasters.
- Deacons' funds were utilized for emergency food, rent, and utility expenses. Each request included children.
- Communication within the Deacons has improved with every member of this year's class having email access.
- Deacons assist the Parish Nurse at the monthly blood pressure checks, by providing a warm atmosphere and recording readings.
- The Moderator met with each incoming Deacon prior to the first meeting in September to become acquainted with them and to learn of their personal interests and goals.
- All Deacons were trained in how to serve communion in a home or hospital. A portable communion service case was purchased expressly for Deacon use.

The Board of Deacons could not touch the lives of people without the financial help, prayers and personal support that we receive from the congregation, Session, and the pastors. Knowing that we are supported in these ways helps us to focus on the opportunities of ministry that come our way.

Sincerely,

Edith Wallace, Moderator
253-589-6689 253-307-7028 ewallace@comcast.net