

**INSTITUTE FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES  
DIACONAL STUDIES  
YEAR ONE**

**Course title:** The History of the Diaconate

**Instructor:** The Rev. Susan Hansell, Deacon  
St Paul's Church  
656 Avenue L, Northwest  
Winter Haven, FL 33881  
(863) 294-8888  
e-mail: [nualamurphy@aol.com](mailto:nualamurphy@aol.com)

**Course objectives:**

1. To explore the historical background of the diaconate as narrated in the Book of Acts.
2. To study the evolution of the ministry of the deacon in the early church.
3. To identify and discuss critical points made by Barnett concerning the rise, the decline and the re-emergence of the diaconate.
4. To discuss and compare the role of the deacon in the early church with the diaconate ministry exercised in today's church family.

**Required reading:** The Book of Acts, Chapters 6 through 11  
Barnett, James, **The Diaconate: A Full and Equal Order**

**Assignment prior to class:** Identify one topic from the assigned readings you would like discussed during our class time. Be specific – write it down – be prepared to submit it at the **beginning** of class.

**Required assignment for credit:** A two to three page, double-spaced, typewritten paper will be due 30 days following the class date. Suggested topics will be given to you at the end of class. If you have a topic you are especially interested in, please request approval before leaving class. This paper will require research of additional source material and a pertinent bibliography.