

Council of the Conference of Deacons

Archdiocese of Hartford

August, 2010

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Proposed Meeting Schedule for 2010-2012

As with every schedule, this is when we *think* we're going to meet. Real life takes precedence every time. For example, we start off with an anomaly: I have to attend a wedding celebration in PA on September 11, so the meeting date proposed is September 25.

2010

September 25

November 13

2011

January 8

March 12

May 14

September 10

November 12

2012

January 14

March 10

May 12

Please let me know if you won't be able to make one or more of these meetings, via e-mail (tim.healy@comcast.net) phone (860-693-8562) or in person if we bump into one another someplace. If too many folks can't make the meeting, or if I've scheduled it for Easter (I haven't) or something big like that, we'll sort it out as we go along.

All of the meetings will be at Holy Angels Church 585 Main Street, Meriden CT (driving directions are here: <http://www.archdioceseofhartford.org/cgi-bin/directions.pl?textdata=249>).

I'm open to suggestions about the number, place, time, attendees and content of the meetings. We can talk about the food, too.

Proposed changes to meeting format

I'd like the meetings to be a tad shorter and begin with a few minutes of sharing à la Small Christian Communities rather than just a prayer. Take a look at this format and let me know what you think:

9-9:15 Gathering prayer and sharing of current weekend's gospel. Tim will provide some starter questions for discussion, which the group can use or change as it sees fit. If you have a better idea about how this part should go, please let me know.

The reason for this change is that the biggest topic on our agenda have to do with relationships with others. If we share a bit more deeply, then the hope is that we will be able to share our vocation and its meaning with others with whom we have to work, and who we want to awaken to the diaconal vocation latent within them.

9:15-11 Meeting

Pro forma agenda (all meeting will look like this unless we don't want them to)

1. **Review of previous meeting's minutes (5 minutes or less)**
2. **Treasurer's Report (5 minutes or less)**
3. **Old Business (<=30 minutes)**
4. **New Business (<=30minutes)**
5. **Director's Report (< 30 minutes)**
6. **Open Discussion (<=30 minutes)**
7. **Closing Prayer**

As you can see, if we all agree to the proposed timing, the meeting should never last more than two-and-a-quarter hours. An occasional excursion from the ideal will be tolerated, with the permission of the group. The NADO section has been dropped, since the group appears to be moribund and we do not wish to follow that example.

Agenda for September meeting

Reflection Reading (Luke 16:19-31)

Jesus said to the Pharisees:

"There was a rich man who dressed in purple garments and fine linen and dined sumptuously each day.

And lying at his door was a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who would gladly have eaten his fill of the scraps that fell from the rich man's table.

Dogs even used to come and lick his sores.

When the poor man died, he was carried away by angels to the bosom of Abraham.

The rich man also died and was buried, and from the netherworld, where he was in torment, he raised his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

And he cried out, 'Father Abraham, have pity on me.

Send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am suffering torment in these flames.'

Abraham replied,

'My child, remember that you received what was good during your lifetime while Lazarus likewise received what was bad;

but now he is comforted here, whereas you are tormented.

Moreover, between us and you a great chasm is established

to prevent anyone from crossing who might wish to go from our side to yours or from your side to ours.'

He said, 'Then I beg you, father, send him to my father's house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they too come to this place of torment.'

But Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets.

Let them listen to them.'

He said, 'Oh no, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.'

Then Abraham said, 'If they will not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if someone should rise from the dead.'"

Discussion starters (use one or more, or choose your own)

1. How does this parable challenge you as a deacon?
2. Would there be a difference in how you'd preach this gospel to your parish and to a group of deacons or priests?
3. There are many points of view within this parable (Jesus, Lazarus, the rich man, Moses and the prophets,...). How would you compare and contrast the witness that each gives?

Review of previous meeting's minutes

Treasurer's Report

Old Business

- a. Meeting of Regional Coordinators on the future of the diaconate
- b. Trends (social, priests, seminarians, lay ministry...)
- c. Implementation of Appreciative Inquiry model
- d. Questionnaire to be completed at the annual Deacons' Retreat- tabled for future meeting – is now the time?

New Business

- a. Invitees (who and have they been formally invited?)
- b. Discussion of alignment survey results
- c. COD Strategy Part 1
 1. Identity
 2. Mission

Director's Report

Open Discussion

Closing Prayer

Survey Results

Please refer to the accompanying PDFs

Significance – what the group thinks is most and least important among the issues presented

Convergence – green items reflect agreement about the priority and significance of issues. Yellow indicates a degree of difference that suggests that caution be exercised before moving ahead with this issue.

Alignment – the larger your number, the more you agree with others in the group. A gentle slope is ideal – a 'knee' indicates moderate disagreement that needs to be explored. A negative number (whew, we don't have any) means that serious disagreement exists.

Deacon Activity Report – what deacons do

Ministry Descriptions – what deacons say about their ministry

If your initials do not show up, we have no idea what you think about the issues presented.