



Foreword

More than a trite saying is the consideration that “timing is everything.” These words find a secure place in the realm of reality as congregations and church leaders rejoice when they become aware of practical resources that assist in meeting the ministry need at seemingly just the right moment.

Such will be the experience of those pastors and congregation leaders that are in search of biblical, historical, practical, and methodical means of facilitating movement in their deacons and deaconesses from a service mindset that primarily involves offering collection, building maintenance, baptism and Holy Communion preparation, and other ceremonial appearances.

This volume, *The Twenty-First Century Deacon and Deaconess: Reflecting the Biblical Model*, by Dr. Vincent E. White, Sr., is a positive and powerful addition to the all-too-limited cadre of volumes that are dedicated to assisting the deacon and deaconess in the process of functioning within the realm of a Holy Ghost anointed ministry.

The Twenty-First Century Deacon and Deaconess is a detailed handbook and guide that provides structure, affirmation, instruction, and encouragement. It challenges the status-quo and identifies the underlying factors that reveal that the under-utilization of deacons and deaconesses in the Seventh-day Adventist church is a systemic problem. It also offers recommendations for addressing this problem in such a way that these officers can be restored to their biblically defined roles. The book reaches while maintaining balance, as it views the landscape of this powerful ministry that is designed to assist in the process of congregational nurture and growth.

Local congregations will benefit from the exercise they receive as they journey through this very timely and straight forward call to

excellence in the ministry of deacons and deaconesses. The Seventh-day Adventist church at large will benefit from accepting the challenge to embrace a paradigm shift that would better equip these officers to assist in fulfilling the church’s mission to spread the gospel to the world. The result of such a shift would be, as it was in the first century Christian church when the seven deacons were elected to serve—“The Word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied . . .” (Acts 6:7).

Without reservations, I highly recommend this book. It is a “must-have” for deacons, deaconesses, pastors, and church administrators.

J. Alfred Johnson, II
Director of Adult Ministries
The Seventh-day Adventist Church
in North America