

# LAY AND VESTRY MINISTRY ROLES

## LAY MINISTRY:

- to represent Christ and his Church
- to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them
- to carry on Christ's work of reconciliation in the world
- to take their place in the life, worship, and governance of the Church (BCP, 855)

## VESTRY MINISTRY: (elected leadership)

- participates in casting a vision
- embodies that vision
- establishes policies that will enable that vision to be realized
- shares with the clergy in discerning and meeting the spiritual and material needs of the congregation and local context

# ORDAINED MINISTRY ROLES

**PRIEST:** The priest vows to:

- call the community to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of The Episcopal Church. (BCP, 526)
- proclaim by word and deed the Gospel of Jesus Christ,
- love and serve the people among whom they work, caring alike for young and old, strong and weak, rich and poor
- preach
- declare God's forgiveness to penitent sinners
- pronounce God's blessing
- share in the administration of the sacraments and sacramental rites of the church (BCP, 531)

**DEACON:** The deacon vows to:

- study the Holy Scriptures, to seek nourishment from them
- make Christ and his redemptive love known, by word and example, to those among whom they live, work, and worship
- interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world
- assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments.
- at all times, their life and teaching are to show Christ's people that in serving the helpless they are serving Christ himself (BCP, 543)