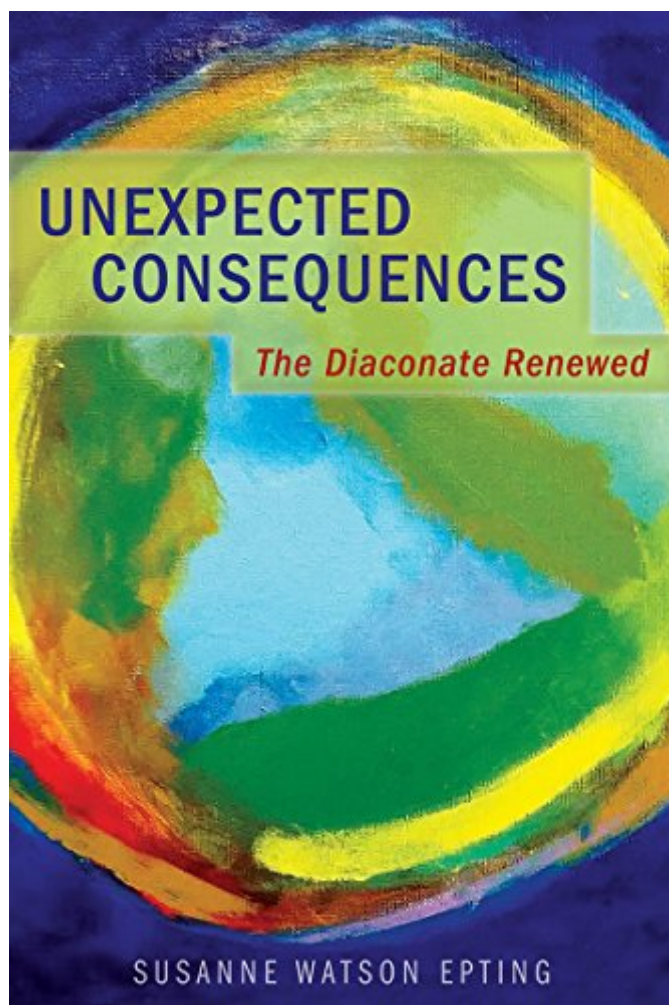




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Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed



Synopsis

First book in years to look critically at the diaconate in the Episcopal Church. Times change, and the Order of Deacons in the Episcopal Church has not remained static. While the book seeks to update contemporary knowledge about deacons, it also shows how the diaconate may be well positioned to lead the church into change that cuts across governance, formation, and ministry. While the institutional church struggles with its structure and purpose, working to change its reality and perception, the book suggests that there are diaconal leaders who have been working all along for this kind of change. The book chronicles ways in which one church order has grown, matured, adapted, adjusted, and is as effective as it is because of its dynamic nature. It is hoped that other orders might learn from the importance of being adaptable, contextual, and baptismal, while highlighting the primary lens deacons look through as they seek to fulfill what the church has called them to do.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A helpful historical review of the development of diaconate in U.S. And in Episcopal church. Author's insights into challenges and opportunities in this essential ministry expand one's view of hurdles to be overcome and value of understanding the 1979 Episcopal Prayer Book's mission statement. Author balances need to be politically and strategically savvy with need to move forward in the growth and evolution of ministry and involvement of essential areas of ministry not being served.

Susanne Does a great job in articulating the history of the Vocational Diaconate in the Episcopal Church, especially in describing how it has always been a response to the needs of the Church. Her vision of where the diaconate should be heading, based on the current needs of the Church and the world that we all live in today is challenging and insightful

This book is helpful in understanding the diaconate. The vision of individuals who are in touch with the world as well as invested in the church is empowering. The concept that supervision is not the appropriate term for a deacon's relationship with priests and bishops, but, mutual accountability may be more appropriate is very helpful. The story of the woman who stopped pulling people out of the river to go look for who was throwing them in should be central to the long term goals of social justice and helping to lift people up.

This is an extremely helpful history of the diaconate, a wonderful view of how we are living into a theology of ministry as demonstrated in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and a very accurate account of our understanding of the diaconate and the importance of the servanthood of all the baptized.

While, of course, the meat of Susanne's work is about the need for, and the success of the renewed diaconal community, I have been richly rewarded and renewed in my own call to serve. All deacons, especially those who are called but not yet ordained should read this. All deacons would benefit if priests would read it also.

Fascinating and inspiring for all called to serve. Must read the pages about Sister Deacon(ess) Priscilla Wright, recently retired from ministry in the DR, now active at her home base in Glendale, Ohio, with the Community of the Sisters of the Transfiguration.

Excellent history of the diaconate as it has evolved within The Episcopal Church. I especially

appreciate the attention paid to the prophetic role and voice of deacons.

Waves are an interesting metaphor because function is mixed over time in my 30 years

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