

# Call of Baptism

Baptism is a call to discipleship:  
Holiness  
Community  
Mission and ministry

It is a call that is lived out  
In each person's  
Vocational choice,

Central to this call are relationships.  
With God  
With one another,  
With self, and  
With the whole of creation.

Becoming the hands and  
Heart, and mind of Christ,  
Takes a lifetime of  
Listening to God and to life  
Responding – joining in community in  
ministry  
Deepening relations  
Entering into the mystery.

## To apply...

### Mail

The Deaconess Community  
8765 West Higgins Road, Suite 405  
Chicago, Illinois 60631

### Phone

1-800-638-3522 / ext 1705

### Fax

773-380-1707

### E-mail

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Visit us online at [www.elca.org/deaconess](http://www.elca.org/deaconess)

# Partner with US

## Companions of the Deaconess Community



The  
**DEACONESS  
COMMUNITY**  
Serving the ELCA / ELCIC



# Come and grow with us...

## Our companion program is...

An opportunity for you to develop:

- ✚ A relationship with fellow Deaconess Community Companions in your geographical area.
- ✚ A stronger and fuller sense of what it means to obey Christ's command to serve one another.
- ✚ An opportunity to live out the core values and mission of the Deaconess Community.

## Our training goals are...

To help the Companions to:

1. Deepen their spiritual life and identify their spiritual gifts..
2. Know the history of diakonia from New Testament times to this day, and also the Community's history with the ability to articulate it to others.

3. Confirm the call they have in common with the Community to servant ministry.
4. Be able to articulate the mission and values of the Deaconess Community.

## Formation components...

The process will be individually tailored to fit you.

### Required Components:

- ✚ History of diakonia starting with the early church and continuing with the history of the Deaconess Community
- ✚ Basic biblical understanding
- ✚ Prayer methods and prayer life
- ✚ Myers-Briggs Personality Inventory to properly match you with a deaconess mentor

### Optional Components:

- ✚ Attendance at our diaconal course, "Diaconal Ministry: Discernment, History and Formation."

### Methodology:

- ✚ Ideally, formation will take place over a period of one year during half-day or full-day retreats or regional gatherings of deaconesses and companion.

## Frequently Asked Questions

*Is this considered a full-time call to ministry?*

~No.

*What if I want to explore becoming a member of the Deaconess Community – will being a Companion be of help to me?*

~Yes.

*Do I need to make a financial contribution to the community?*

~No.

*Do I have to become a Deaconess?*

~No.

*Do I have to relocate to Chicago?*

~No.

*Do I need to be a Lutheran?*

~No.

*What if I want to be a Pastor?*

~Go for it!

*What if I am a Pastor. Do I need to do the educational portion of this program?*

~Yes.