

## Gwynne Lawlor

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**From:** David Bannerman <bishophveld@iafrica.com>  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 28, 2013 5:51 PM  
**To:** 'Gwynne Lawlor'  
**Subject:** RE: Distinctive Diaconate

Dear Gwynne,

Thank you for acting as the scribe, putting our reflection together and guiding us forward. The idea of a short description of ministry for your trip is a good one. I will be making contact with those who did not come. They missed the beginning of something good.

Your glasses are here when you are next in town!

Yours,  
+David

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**From:** Gwynne Lawlor [<mailto:gwynne@lawlor.co.za>]  
**Sent:** 27 April 2013 21:47  
**To:** [philliplaurings@yahoo.com](mailto:philliplaurings@yahoo.com); [barbaraam@telkomsa.net](mailto:barbaraam@telkomsa.net)  
**Cc:** [bishophveld@iafrica.com](mailto:bishophveld@iafrica.com)  
**Subject:** Distinctive Diaconate

Hi all,

It was a privilege to meet with you and to hear about the scope and diversity in the work you are doing in your parishes. As a new deacon, I was excited, humbled, amazed and motivated by what is being accomplished by all of you in His name. There was also a sense of not working in isolation! The backing and support from Bishop David, and his ideas of incorporating all the deacons in the Chrism Service on Maundy Thursday, by having them gather around the deacon reading the Gospel, sounded really affirming of the Servant Ministry of the deacons in our Diocese.

The image of deacons being the spokes emanating from the hub (Bishop and Diocese), through the parishes to the margins and fringe of society, and back from the "rim", through the parishes, back to Diocese, thus maintaining the connection between the Church and the world was mentioned. It occurs to me, as I write this e-mail, that this image resembles the emblem of the Anglican Church of Southern Africa!

Some of the points for reflection, coming out of our meeting, were as follows:

- 1) How do we understand the distinctive diaconate and how do we understand our role (liturgical, pastoral etc.)
- 2) Do we require any training, or further training, for ministries needed in our contexts?
- 3) What support do we need from Diocese in exercising our calling?

I am encouraged by our agreement to meet after the Diakonia Conference in Berlin and look forward to giving feedback – I do hope that it will be relevant, and hope that this is the beginning of a mutually supportive gathering of deacons. I wonder if it would be possible for me to have a short description of what you do (much as you spoke today) in writing so that I can report – if there is space and opportunity to do so – on our ministry to the marginalized (poor, elderly, ill) and among the youth in the Diocese of the Highveld when I am in Berlin. There may be opportunities in the small group discussions. If you have photos – even better! Perhaps I can put a small "press release" together – which I will give to all of you to edit before my trip. In the Diakonia newsletter I left with you, you will see examples of what I mean.