

MEMO

To: Bishop David Bannerman

From: Deacon Gwynne Lawlor

Dear Bishop David

Re: MEETING OF DEACONS

I have thought about your idea to include the transitional deacons in our newly diarised meeting on 14th September and wonder whether this would be at all useful in terms of what the deacons are trying to achieve, which is to think about what it means to be a distinctive deacon in the Diocese of the Highveld, and to find appropriate ways in which to manifest this.

There is concern for me that introducing transitional deacons at this sensitive stage would confuse the issue and derail the attempt to build a cohesive body of distinctive deacons. There is so much work we need to do on this, not least of all to work through the questions we have come up with so far.

I was terribly concerned when I picked up what seemed to be a sense of despair, a feeling of isolation and some disillusionment in the Deacons I met with regard to their invisibility in our church – our first meeting started off so awkwardly, but gained momentum. There has been support, some excitement and a glimmer of hope among the Deacons because of what you have initiated with them – it would be awful to lose that momentum and with it the hope.

For myself, I hope you do not mind my frankness. Obviously I will abide by your decision as you do have the bigger picture.

However, if you are in agreement – in principle – with these thoughts, I would suggest that the next meeting's date (03Aug) not be altered, but that the Deacons meet together, even if it is to be without you – but with your blessing, to work on the questions we have raised so far. I would also give them feedback on Diakonia. My report to you on Diakonia Berlin I will drop off at the Diocesan offices on Monday as we come past Benoni.

At this August meeting, the Deacons could receive copies of the Pretoria training programme I lent you and perhaps prepare some sort of presentation for the transitional deacons?

Your Daggakraal Deacon

Gwynne