

## **Gwynne Lawlor**

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**From:** Joan Jones <joan0jones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, September 6, 2021 10:34 AM  
**To:** Gwynne Lawlor  
**Subject:** Diaconate

### **Foreground**

- 1 Is the Diaconate obsolete?
- 2 If not are we being blocked?

1. Why are we being blocked? Are our personalities too strong or are we bucking 'the system'.
2. If we are not is God blocking us? Are we on the wrong path or posing a threat to the institution?

### **For consideration**

1. Why were we ordained deacons? What is our ministry.
2. Are we on our own mission of self-indulgence? If not are we perceived to be leading and undermining the authority of the church? What threat do we pose and why?
3. Are we committed to serving God? If so is the Diaconate the only way?
4. Are the educational qualifications of Deacons putting them above priests? If so lower the qualifications. In rural areas they are essential because of limited income which limits numbers of priests. Are Deacons really necessary in urban areas? Can we have 2 tiers of educational?

### **Way forward for prayerful consideration.**

1. Is is our ministry an asset or hindrance to the church ?
2. How do we ascertain how and why we are being blocked?
3. How do we put our petition forward and to or through whom? Do we persevere regardless or just let the Diaconate die until there is another mini insurrection.
4. Point 4 above maybe changing one of the canons. If so what is the way forward?

Joan Jones