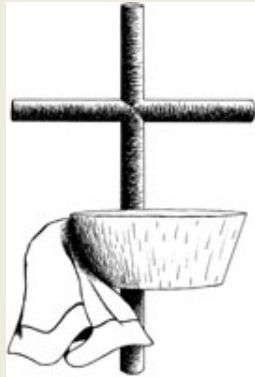


DEACON UPDATE



A FULL-TIME SERVANT

February 2013

Yesterday I received an email with these words following the sender's name:

Licensed Minister
Licensed Electrician
Notary Public
Let me be your servant!

While many of us include a job title as part of our professional signature, I think you'll agree that this one is pretty unique. As this woman practices any of her vocations, she humbly asks that others allow her to serve them. She is part-time pastor, part-time electrician, sometimes notary public, *full-time servant*. I find a lot to think about in the upfront way she declares that.

From the time we are toddlers we are asked what we want to do when we grow up. Many of us still don't have a good answer, even as we keep hoping that one day it will all become clear, that we will finally be certain of what God is calling us to do. Does God truly call us, though, to do something specific? I believe that God calls us, certainly, but I think sometimes those callings are not as specific as we would hope. Did God call my friend to be a minister, an electrician, a notary public? Perhaps, but I think first and foremost she heard God calling her to be a servant; her choices to fulfill that calling as a minister, electrician, or even notary, are just details.

Let's be sure we do not waste time searching for that perfect vocation, or lamenting that we may have wasted our lives doing something we were not called to do. Instead, let's pray that we find ways to be who God wants us to be—and the details will take care of themselves.

—OVER—

"Will you let me be your servant? Let me be as Christ to you..."
from The Servant Song, *Hymnal, A Worship Book*

Lent is a time for reflection, and I hope my words today have given you a bit of food for thought. Many more nourishing words can be found in *The Practice of Paying Attention*, this year's Lenten devotional. I would also encourage you to share in additional daily questions and prayers that accompany the devotional, a resource offered by Congregational Life Ministries. This resource is available online, and includes a place to offer your own thoughts.

Registration is also now open for Annual Conference, and again deacon training sessions will be offered as pre-conference (Saturday) events. Register for these workshops online and pay with a credit card, or download a paper form (PDF) and pay by check. Please note that registration for these workshops is separate from the Annual Conference registration process.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Kline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna Kline, *(former)* director of Denominational
Deacon Ministry