

Additional Resources & Assignments—aka, the practical side!

Assignments for the month of January/February

*With all material below, we are not so much looking for total alignment, agreement, or assent. We are more interested in your interaction with the content, your honest convictions, and how you envision yourself bringing your opinions & gifts into the Diaconate and how the implementation of your serving will manifest in the life of our body.

- Read Acts 6:1-7. Some scholars do not see this section as prescriptive and recorded to be implemented into the churches practice throughout the future. Rather, some see it as *descriptive* of simply what happened in the early church. Regardless of one's interpretation, we can learn much from this small section of scripture. For the first assignment, write a paragraph summary of the situation, the problem, and the solution that the church found and implemented. What did the apostles need to be focusing on? Why was that causing some legitimate frustration? Though certainly not exhaustive in scope, how does this passage give some distinction between elders and deacons?

- Vision & Future of Redeemer (Interact with the material and ask the question along the way: "Am I on board with this?" "In what way can I bring my particular gifts to bolster the vision I see here?")

- The Six Way Fracturing of Evangelicalism (What are your thoughts on this article and have you seen this fracturing at Redeemer? How do you plan to lead & serve in the midst of that? How can Redeemer grow in our elasticity?)

Read/listen to & Summarize one of your choice, allowing this question to guide what we are looking for in your response: "How will this or how would I like this material to inform my leadership & service at Redeemer?"

1. Making Room: Recovering Hospitality as a Christian Tradition — Christine D. Pohl
 1. Interview over coffee/lunch with Nikki Long to understand this in a more practical way here in Lincoln. Nikki runs a ministry called "Juniper Refuge" and I would love to see our diaconate come along side and foster more of the hospitality that they are giving to refugees in Lincoln.
2. When Helping Hurts — Brian Fikkert
3. Free At Last — Dr. Carl Ellis
4. Generous Justice *or* Ministries of Mercy — Tim Keller
5. Ruth Barton & Steve Cuss — Managing Leadership anxiety: <https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/episode-138-ruth-haley-barton/id1441812273?i=1000559280271>
6. "Calvary"—This is a movie, and the question I want you to ask is "How does the priest care for his parish/congregation? How could a deacon assist in the care for the widows/orphans/& hurting people of his parish?"