

Wewoka Statement

April 1977

The Associated Parishes Council is committed to the renewal of the order of deacon as a full, normal ministry in the church, alongside the priesthood. The diaconate is not properly a stepping-stone or a back door to the priesthood. It is not an auxiliary ministry. Deacons and priests have equal but different ministries whose functions are clearly outlined in the new ordinal of the Proposed Book of Common Prayer.

In an effort to clarify the distinctive character and importance of each order, as well as the ministry of the laity, we feel that candidates for the priesthood should be ordained directly to that order. Deacons should be eligible to be elected as bishop and ordained directly to that order.

The ministry of lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons is one in the body of Christ our great high priest who came as one who serves.

Wewoka, Oklahoma