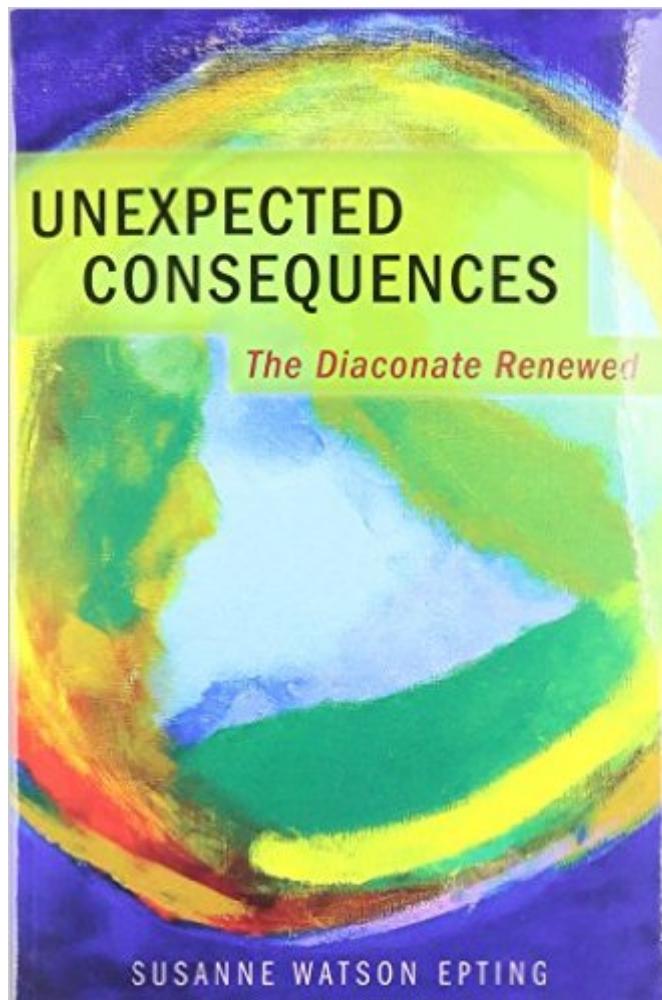


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# Unexpected Consequences: The Diaconate Renewed



## **Synopsis**

"Times change, and the Order of Deacons in the Episcopal Church has not remained static. While the book seeks to update contemporary knowledge about deacons, it also shows how the diaconate may be well positioned to lead the church into change that cuts across governance, formation, and ministry. While the institutional church struggles with its structure and purpose, working to change its reality and perception, the book suggests that there are diaconal leaders who have been working all along for this kind of change. The book chronicles ways in which one church order has grown, matured, adapted, adjusted, and is as effective as it is because of its dynamic nature. It is hoped that other orders might learn from the importance of being adaptable, contextual, and baptismal, while highlighting the primary lens deacons look through as they seek to fulfill what the church has called them to do."

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

A helpful historical review of the development of diaconate in U.S. And in Episcopal church. Author's insights into challenges and opportunities in this essential ministry expand one's view of hurdles to be overcome and value of understanding the 1979 Episcopal Prayer Book's mission statement. Author balances need to be politically and strategically savvy with need to move forward in the growth and evolution of ministry and involvement of essential areas of ministry not being served.

Susanne Does a great jog in articulating the history of the Vocational Diaconate in the Episcopal

Church, especially in describing how it has always been a response to the needs of the Church. Her vision of where the diaconate should be heading, based on the current needs of the Church and the world that we all live in today is challenging and insightful

This is an extremely helpful history of the diaconate, a wonderful view of how we are living into a theology of ministry as demonstrated in the 1979 Book of Common Prayer, and a very accurate account of our understanding of the diaconate and the importance of the servanthood of all the baptized.

Susanne Watson Epting's invaluable contribution is essential reading for all in leadership in The Episcopal Church. Deacon Watson Epting has been able to observe and participate in many of the important events surrounding the diaconate these past 25 years. A key player, she brings an insider's perspective as the reemerging diaconate has found its place and voice.

This book is helpful in understanding the diaconate. The vision of individuals who are in touch with the world as well as invested in the church is empowering. The concept that supervision is not the appropriate term for a deacon's relationship with priests and bishops, but, mutual accountability may be more appropriate is very helpful. The story of the woman who stopped pulling people out of the river to go look for who was throwing them in should be central to the long term goals of social justice and helping to lift people up.

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