

# Landscape and Grounds

## A MINISTRY DESCRIPTION FOR LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS

### Introduction

As Jesus gives insight into the nature of His church using the symbol of the body in I Corinthians 12, so it is that when we join the Church we become “members” of the body of Christ and are equipped for specific functions by the Holy Spirit. God wills that the various “body parts” (members) function effectively toward the common goal of the church: making disciples of Jesus Christ.

It is an erroneous concept that the clergy have a “sacred calling” and the general membership only a “secular calling.” This concept impedes the progress of the church by leading some to believe their contributions are less important. In fact, the New Testament teaches that all members of the body of Christ are ministers of Jesus Christ. There are necessary differences in function, but the status of all leaders is the same.

You have been called to function as a deacon or deaconess in your congregation. The God who calls is able to sustain you as you cooperate with Him.

While in many instances the work of the deacon and deaconess overlap, distinctions will be described. Though deacons have traditionally been men and deaconesses have been women, in some Adventist churches today both men and women serve in both roles. We derive both English titles from the same New Testament Greek word.

### Duties of Landscape and Grounds

The ministry to which a person is called when he or she becomes a deacon or deaconess includes the following duties:

*Upkeep of church property.* They will take responsibility for oversight or actual doing of the janitorial work.

### Resource Materials

The following resources are recommended for your ministry. You can purchase these by calling AdventSource (800-328-0525), the Adventist Book Center (800-765-6955) or your local Christian bookstore.

*A New Frontier: Every Believer A Minister*, by Rex D. Edwards.

*The Deacon At Work*, by F.A. Agar. (1987, Judson Press).

*The Emerging Role of the Deacon*, by Charles Deweese. (1979, Broadman Press).

*The Work of the Deacon and Deaconess*, by Harold Nichols. (1986, Judson Press).

Visit AdventSource On-Line at [www.adventsource.org](http://www.adventsource.org) for a complete list of the latest resources available for local church leaders. You can place an order or request a catalog by calling 1-800-328-0525.

For information about additional resources and answers to your questions call the Adventist Plusline at 1-800-732-7587 or visit them on-line at [www.plusline.org](http://www.plusline.org).