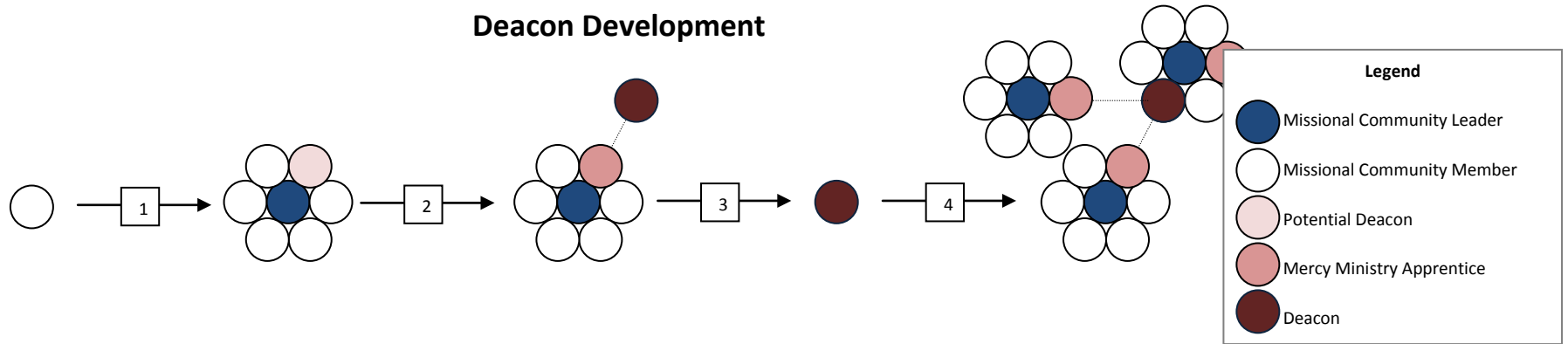


Deacon Development



1. Joining a Missional Community

Systemic: Create a culture where people see “being the church” as life-on-life interaction living in community. Paths of serving, growing, learning, mercy ministry, connecting all flow through these missional communities.

2. Becoming a Mercy Ministry Apprentice

Systemic: The Missional Community Leader or a Deacon in the missional community identifies a person with a desire to serve. The Mercy Ministry Apprentice is connected with a Deacon. The Mercy Ministry Apprentice is given increased responsibility to plan, manage and oversee expressions of mercy to the city.

Systematic: The Gospel & Our Church curriculum, Divine Design Gifts Assessment, *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*

3. Becoming a Deacon

Systemic: Through an active coaching process the Mercy Ministry Apprentice grows in their leading of mercy ministries and their understanding of what it means to be a servant to the community and toward the city. We believe that the Deacon (or elder) process is just a confirmation of what God has already done. Meaning our Deacons must already be active in serving and running ministries prior to our beginning the process

Systematic: The Apprentice is paired with a Deacon to go through *The New Testament Deacon: The Church’s Minister of Mercy* with the accompanying *The New Testament Deacon* (Study Guide).

4. Ongoing Deacon Coaching & Development

Systemic: Deacons continue to coach new apprentices and meet together monthly to discuss mercy ministry issues. Deacons focus their ministries primarily on issues pertinent to the missional communities they are involved in. Example: Urban groups work with homeless, suburban groups may be work with the elderly, etc.

Systematic: Continued reading, conferences and education. A [specialized track is designed to the Deacon](#) based on their strengths and weaknesses.