

Contents

Foreword	vii
Acknowledgements	ix
Introduction	xi
1. What Does the Bible Say about Deacons?	1
2. The Office of the Deacon in 1 Timothy 3:8-13	24
3. Deacons in the Black Baptist Church	35
4. Training for Deacons in Today's Black Church	56
5. In the Footsteps of Phoebe: Women Deacons in the Black Baptist Church	76
6. How One Church Embraced Women in Ordained Ministry	91
7. A Twenty-first Century Look at a First Century Ministry	102
8. Profiles in Service	116
Appendix A: Questionnaire about the Role of Deacons in the Black Baptist Church	135
Appendix B: Results of the Questionnaire about the Role of Deacons in the Black Baptist Church	138