



### **Section 3. Deacons**

This church shall strive to maintain a minimum of twelve active deacons, but not to exceed forty active deacons. The church shall operate with as many as are willing to serve and are qualified to do so as set forth herein.

The deacons shall serve on a rotation basis. Elected deacons shall serve a term of three years. No deacon shall be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year. In case of death, removal, or incapacity to serve, the church may elect another deacon to fill the unexpired term. There is no obligation to constitute as an active deacon a person who comes to the church from another church where he has served as a deacon.

The deacons shall elect their officers and be organized in such a fashion as to assist the pastoral staff in consideration of problems related to their work. They may organize themselves into committees as needed to best serve the members of the church in the areas of, but not limited to, spiritual and ordinance, building and grounds, benevolence, finance, and personnel. Special committees may be needed for special assignments and projects in accordance with these bylaws and policies set forth by the church.

The deacon chairman will serve as president of the corporation and as an ex-officio member of all committees. As such, this individual shall be exempt from chairing any other committees while serving as the deacon chairman.

#### **(1) Qualifications of a Deacon**

The qualifications for the office of deacon are scripturally based and are as follows:

1. Possesses a good reputation (Acts 6:3).
2. Is spiritually minded and submissive to God's leadership (Acts 6:3, 5).
3. Possesses spiritual knowledge and understanding that provide sound direction for the ministry of the church (Acts 6:3).
4. Walks by faith, trusting God and believing in the Word of God (Acts 6:5).
5. Is dignified and worthy of respect (1 Tim. 3:8).
6. Speaks with honesty and integrity (1 Tim. 3:8).
7. Realizes the importance of Christian influence and is willing to limit his liberty for the sake of others (1 Tim. 3:8).
8. Is not a greedy person (1 Tim. 3:8).
9. Has a deep Biblical commitment (1 Tim. 3:9).
10. Must first be tested and proven (1 Tim. 3:10).
  - a. Must have been a member of the church for at least one year.

- b. Must be 21 years of age or older.
- 11. Should display a lifestyle free from continual patterns of scriptural disobedience (1 Tim. 3:10).
- 12. If married, this man's wife should be devoted to God and yielded to the Holy Spirit (1 Tim. 3:11).
- 13. Must manage his household well (1 Tim. 3:12).
- 14. Must recognize God-given spiritual leadership that is incumbent upon the office of a pastor and seek to submit to his leadership (Heb. 13:7, 17).
- 15. Should create and preserve unity and harmony in the church (Eph. 4:1-3).

## (2) Role and Responsibilities of a Deacon

The office of deacon is one of ministry and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His church. Any other understanding of this office does disservice to the New Testament record. The office of deacon is characterized by humility and service, not prestige and power. A deacon will assume a role as servant leader, spiritual compass, and model of Christian character for the entire congregation. The responsibilities of a deacon represent an opportunity to contribute to significant ministry and are as follows:

1. In accordance with the meaning of the word, and practice of the New Testament, a “deacon” is to be a servant of the church.
2. Assist the pastor in performing pastoral duties.
3. Be supportive of the overall ministry of the church.
4. Unless providentially hindered, participate in all activities of the deacon ministry; to include scheduled meetings and training sessions, as made available.
5. Be an active member of assigned deacon committees (Spiritual and Ordinance, Building and Grounds, Finance, Benevolence, Personnel, and others as deemed necessary).
6. Pray regularly for the church, pastors, and staff.
7. Minister to assigned families of the congregation.
8. Assist in administering the Lord’s Supper and participate in corporate worship as assigned.
9. Practice personal evangelism as opportunities arise.
10. When scheduled, serve as a greeter and provide security during worship services.
11. Welcome visitors and new members, answering any questions they may have.
12. To the extent possible, be actively involved in all aspects of church life; to include Sunday school and all worship services.
13. Assist with set-up and clean-up of church sponsored events held in the family life center.

14. Actively serve in at least one church ministry.

### (3) Deacon Selection Process

To be eligible for this honored office, each nominee must possess the biblical qualifications as set forth above. Qualified men are encouraged to nominate themselves.

1. Nominations for the office of deacon shall be received from church members, in person during any duly convened business conference, or via nomination forms provided by the church nominating committee and submitted as instructed by the specified date due. Nomination forms are typically placed in the east hallway along with a drop box in the spring and summer of each calendar year. Nomination forms may also be obtained and submitted in the church office. All nominations for service will be taken into consideration for the church year following the year in which the nomination is made; except in the case of special elections held to fill the unexpired term of a deacon unable to complete his service commitment. Nominations may include a recommendation for service as part of a particular deacon committee.
2. The nominating committee will contact each nominee either by phone or in person to determine if he has the interest or desire to continue the selection process.
3. For those nominees wishing to continue with the selection process, the pastoral staff and the spiritual & ordinance committee will review all nominations and, as deemed necessary, request interviews with candidates. The pastor could ask a nominee to remove his name from consideration based one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. The interview.
  - b. The nominee does not meet the biblical qualifications defined herein.
  - c. The nominee has demonstrated a pattern of personal practices that is unhealthy to himself and/or the ministry of the church family.
  - d. The pastor has exercised much prayer and spiritual discernment in requesting the nominee to remove himself from consideration.

The pastor or nominee may request a review meeting with the chairman of the deacons and the spiritual & ordinance committee to resolve any misunderstanding. All of the above must be present to validate the review meeting.

4. The spiritual & ordinance committee will notify each candidate of his recommendation status; after which recommendations for active service will be communicated to the nominating committee.
5. Each recommended candidate will be presented to the church body for election. Deacons shall be elected at regular business meetings of the church by secret ballot.
6. All elected deacons, not previously ordained, will be ordained at a date and time to be determined.