

Section 4. Deacons

The role of the Deacon is primarily defined by the meaning of the word. The word literally means “one who waits tables,” “servant,” and “minister.” Deacons fulfill an important role in service to the body, allowing the Pastor and Elders to devote attention to the ministry of prayer and the word (Acts 6:1-7). Deacons are to serve the church by working with the Pastor and Elders to discover and meet the physical needs of the church.

A. Deacon Qualifications

The minimum qualifications for Deacons shall not be less than those listed in Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13. In addition to the minimum qualifications given in the Scriptures, Deacons must be at least 25 years of age, members of the church for at least 1 year, fully subscribe to the Statement of Faith in our Constitution, and are actively involved in the ministry of the church.

B. Function of Deacons

Whereas the Bible charges Elders with the tasks of teaching and leading the church, Deacons’ role is more service-oriented. That is, they are to care for the physical and temporal needs of the church. By handling such matters, Deacons free up the Pastor and Elders to focus on shepherding the spiritual needs of the congregation. The Deacons will be responsible for the following areas:

- **Benevolence** - In keeping with their initial role presented in Acts 6:1-7, Deacons will be responsible to meet physical needs of the church and community which may include administering benevolence funds or other assistance to those in need.
- **Facilities** - The Deacons will be responsible to care for the physical properties of the church including the grounds and buildings. The Deacons will work with Pastor, Elders and Personnel Team to secure and oversee the services of appropriate personnel to repair and maintain the church properties.
- **Ushers and Security** - Deacons will be responsible to recruit and equip qualified ushers, including those who are willing to serve as Security Ushers. Deacons will develop job responsibilities for Ushers and ensure that Ushers are equipped and prepared to serve the church, primarily during the Sunday worship services.

C. Deacon Selection

The Pastor, Elders, Deacons and congregation will work together to select men to serve as Deacons. The Pastor, Elders and Deacons shall determine when and how many Deacons are to be added to the Deacon body. They will then seek recommendations and input from the congregation; the Pastor, Elders and Deacons may also make recommendations. The Pastor, Elders and Deacons will review the recommendations, and select qualified candidates for interview to determine their willingness and readiness to serve as a Deacon. Out of the interview process, the Pastor, Elders and Deacons will prayerfully determine those men they believe are called and qualified and present them to the church for acknowledgement as Deacons in training. Once the men have been acknowledged, they will undergo a period of six-months of training, testing

and examination with the Pastor and Deacon body. Once the men have completed the six-month period, the Pastor will present them to the church for vote and installation as Deacons. Deacons will participate in ongoing training to continuously equip them for service. A person may not serve as both a Deacon and an Elder simultaneously.

D. Term of Deacon Service

At the present time the Deacon term of service will be permanent, until the Deacon chooses to resign, or a situation arises where a Deacon is dismissed by church discipline. In the future, the Pastor and Elders may recommend a change to a rotation system of Deacon service to the church. To resign from being a Deacon, a Deacon must notify the church in person or in writing. A vacancy on the Deacon body because of death, resignation, removal or any other cause shall be filled only in the manners prescribed in these Bylaws.