

The Deacon Ministry

Our church body has begun the process of selecting 4 new deacons. We have put together this webpage to help clarify the biblical role of deacons so you can pray for direction in this process. Also, you will have the opportunity to nominate who you think would be a fitting candidate for this important church office.

As you are praying through who you might nominate, please note that being divorced does not automatically eliminate a person from serving as a deacon. Pastor Rusty will be submitting a position paper on this topic soon. If you have further questions about this topic please reach out to him or the office. Thank you.

General Process

- **Pray (Now!)**
 - Read through this material and ask God for direction
- **Nominate (Closes on February 15)**
 - Make your choice known by filling out the approved nomination sheet
- **Vote (TBD, Possibly in March)**
 - Church members will cast their ballots either in person or online

Biblical Qualifications & Expectations:

⁸ Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.

⁹ They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. ¹⁰ And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. ¹¹ Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. ¹² Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. ¹³ For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

-- 1 Timothy 3:8-13 ESV

Biblical Qualification/Expectations Explained:

1. **Dignified (v. 8):** This term normally refers to something that is honorable, respectable, esteemed, or worthy, and is closely related to "respectable," which is given as a qualification for elders (1 Tim. 3:2).

2. **Not double-tongued (v. 8):** Those who are double-tongued say one thing to certain people but then say something else to others, or say one thing but mean another. They are two-faced and insincere. Their words cannot be trusted, so they lack credibility.
3. **Not addicted to much wine (v. 8):** A man is disqualified for the office of deacon if he is addicted to wine or other strong drink. Such a person lacks self-control and is undisciplined.
4. **Not greedy for dishonest gain (v. 8):** If a person is a lover of money, he is not qualified to be a deacon, especially since deacons often handle financial matters for the church.
5. **Sound in faith and life (v. 9):** Paul also indicates that a deacon must “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” The phrase “the mystery of the faith” is simply one way Paul speaks of the gospel (cf. 1 Tim. 3:16). Consequently, this statement refers to the need for deacons to hold firm to the true gospel without wavering. Yet this qualification does not merely involve one’s beliefs, for he must also hold these beliefs “with a clear conscience.” That is, the behavior of a deacon must be consistent with his beliefs.
6. **Blameless (v. 10):** Paul writes that deacons must “be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless” (v. 10). “Blameless” is a general term referring to a person’s overall character. Although Paul does not specify what type of testing is to take place, at a minimum, the candidate’s personal background, reputation, and theological positions should be examined. Moreover, the congregation should not only examine a potential deacon’s moral, spiritual, and doctrinal maturity, but should also consider the person’s track record of service in the church.
7. **Godly wife (v. 11):** It is debated whether verse 11 refers to a deacon’s wife or to a deaconess. For the sake of this discussion, we will assume the verse is speaking about the qualifications of a deacon’s wife. According to Paul, deacons’ wives must “be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things” (v. 11). Like her husband, the wife must be dignified or respectable. Secondly, she must not be a slanderer or a person who goes around spreading gossip. A deacon’s wife must also be sober-minded or temperate. That is, she must be able to make good judgments and must not be involved in things that might hinder such judgment. Finally, she must be “faithful in all things” (1 Tim. 3:11). This is a general requirement which functions similarly to the requirement for elders to be “above reproach” (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6) and for deacons to be “blameless” (1 Tim. 3:10).
8. **Husband of one wife (v. 12):** The best interpretation of this difficult phrase is to understand it as referring to the faithfulness of a husband toward his wife. He must be a “one-woman man”, meaning, there must be no other woman in his life to whom he relates in an intimate way either emotionally or physically. This does not exclude divorced men, but it would be wise to inquire about the situation and exercise discretion.
9. **Manage children and household well (v. 12):** A deacon must be the spiritual leader of his wife and children.

Deacon Core Values:

- Prayer
- Servanthood
- Generosity/Benevolence
- Devotion to the Family
- Growing in the Gospel
- Faithfulness (in all areas)
- Encouraging Unity in the Body
- Courage
- Seeking Wisdom

Practical Expectations:

Ministries within the Church:

- Deacons should be serving/involved in other areas of the church, for example:
 - Teaching Sunday Classes
 - Worship Ministry
 - Sound/Lights
 - Children/Youth
 - Maintenance
 - Benevolence
 - Homebound
 - Safety
 - Church Service Days
 - Etc.

- The expectation is that Deacons are serving throughout the church on a regular basis (i.e., monthly, if not more often), and as a result, have an ear on the pulse of the church.
 - This proves beneficial as Deacons should seek to know and meet the needs of the Body. This also helps Deacons know how to continually build unity because they are serving among the diverse body.
 - Finally, this helps the Deacons support the Elders and Staff by keeping an open line of communication and feedback.

Communion:

- Deacons prepare the elements in advance of the Sunday when it will be served. A team ensures this happens.
- All Deacons help serve Communion to the church as needed.
- A team cleans up and puts away the serving utensils afterwards.

Communication within Deacons:

- Read Email Communication and reply as appropriate
- Email Deacons when issues/needs arise (continually communicating as needed)

Deacon Meetings:

- Attend all Deacon Meetings
 - These are infrequent and should be a priority.
 - If you have a conflict, inform the Deacon Chair and seek out the notes afterward.

Adhoc Needs:

- Deacons organize and run the Spring Banquet each year, serving our Widows & Widowers
- Deacons also serve at the Women's Christmas Banquet each year.

LEAD Deacon & Welcome Usher Duties:

LEAD Deacon:

- Those who are able should serve as LEAD Deacon as part of the rotation.
 - Typically this is a month-long commitment, but it can be done in smaller intervals if needed.
- LEAD Deacons serve from 10:15am to 12:45 P.M. on Sunday Mornings.
- You will be trained by shadowing another LEAD Deacon.

Welcome Ushers:

- During Normal Sunday Worship Services, two "Welcome Ushers" will be present at the back of the Sanctuary watching for guests who need help finding a seat.
 - There are special Sundays where we will need more Deacons to assist with this (i.e., Easter, Mother's Day, VBS Celebration Sunday).
- This role serves from 10:20 A.M. until the sermon begins.
- The Welcome Ushers ensure folks can find a seat since during the music most people are standing), and potentially knows of members who would be excellent at welcoming a guest to sit alongside them.

Benevolence:

- A small team of Deacons have regularly worked to ensure the needs of our Church Body are met.
- These Deacons get requests from the church office, research the need and approve or deny the request.
- It is not limited to those inside Concord, but that is the primary goal.

Homebound:

- Serving the Homebound population of Concord is a ministry many Deacons participate in.

- Visits, phone calls and letters or cards are ways that Deacons and Members can serve the Homebound Ministry.
- Deacons are often requested so that Homebound Members are able to participate in Communion.

Role in the Staff/Elder/Deacon Team:

Deacons are NOT a governing body. Their job, as outlined in Acts 6, is to free up the Elders for the ministry of Prayer and Ministry of the Word. That said, we need to maintain open lines of communicating among Staff, Elders, and Deacons. This will allow the Deacons to better support the vision and ministry of the Elders. Deacons can be excellent shock absorbers to promote unity and squelch concerns before they become issues. But this requires strong and consistent communication. The beauty of this is, it gives greater understanding and unity amongst a larger trusted group of church leaders, which helps create better unity within the whole.

If this is all done with grace and wisdom, it should help the church to grow in number and **obedience** (Acts 6:7).

Current Active Deacons

Nomination Link

Ballot Link (later)