



Ministry of the Deacon

DEACONS

Deacons are chosen from among the congregation to serve the church in its practical, spiritual, and temporal needs.

PART 1. – BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

1 Timothy 3:8–12

The Apostle Paul outlines the following qualifications for deacons:

1. Self-Controlled Character

A deacon must demonstrate self-control in speech, appetites, and actions (1 Tim. 3:8, 11). They must be dignified, sincere, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, and not greedy for dishonest gain.

2. Sound in the Faith

Deacons must “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience” (1 Tim. 3:9), showing both doctrinal understanding and consistent Christian living.

3. Proven Faithfulness

Deacons must first be tested and proven blameless before appointment (1 Tim. 3:10). This reflects a demonstrated record of faithful service.

4. Moral Integrity

If married, a deacon must be faithful to their spouse (1 Tim. 3:12). If single, they must honor Christ with their body (1 Cor. 6:18–19).

5. Effective Household Leadership

A deacon must manage their household well (1 Tim. 3:12), reflecting trustworthiness and spiritual maturity.



6. **Godly Spouses**

Spouses of deacons (or deaconesses) must be examples of Christian character—temperate, trustworthy, and not malicious talkers (1 Tim. 3:11).

7. **Women Serving as Deacons**

At the discretion of the local congregation, women may serve as deacons.

Overall, deacons should exemplify trustworthiness, self-control, and sound faith, enabling them to care for the church's physical needs and model faithful service.

PART 2—THE TWO BIBLICAL OFFICES: PASTORS AND DEACONS

The New Testament identifies two primary offices in the local church: **pastors (elders/overseers)** and **deacons**.

Pastors

Pastors are responsible for teaching, preaching, and shepherding God's people (Eph. 4:11; 1 Tim. 3:2; 5:17; Titus 1:9; Heb. 13:17).

Deacons

Deacons serve the church by managing physical, logistical, and practical matters so pastors may focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word.

This pattern is established in Acts 6:1–6, where the apostles appointed seven men to handle practical responsibilities, allowing them to remain devoted to prayer and teaching.

As the apostles modeled pastoral leadership, the seven modeled the servant ministry of deacons.

An old saying captures the heart of this partnership:

“The pastor is God’s gift to the church; board members are the church’s gift to the pastor.”

When pastors and deacons serve together in humility, integrity, and unity, the church is strengthened and God is glorified.



PART 3—PROCESS FOR SETTING FORTH AND ORDAINING DEACONS

1. Review candidates to ensure they meet biblical qualifications and tithing.
2. Review biblical roles, responsibilities, and expectations with candidates and spouses.
3. Present candidates in Church Conference upon pastoral recommendation.
4. Appoint candidates as Trial Deacons for a minimum of one year.
5. Review MDP Lesson 6: *Minister and the Church of God of Prophecy and Polity and Practice*
6. Require quarterly reports to the local conference, annually to State Office.
7. After one year, recommend candidates to the State Bishop.
8. Ordination conducted in the local church by the State or Regional Bishop.

PART 4—RELATIONSHIP TO THE CHURCH

To the Pastor

Deacons serve as advisors, helpers, and prayer partners to the pastor. They support the pastor's vision and assist in fulfilling God's purpose for the church.

The pastor serves as chairperson and voting member of the church board.

To One Another

Deacons function as a unified team, working cooperatively in prayer, worship, and ministry alongside the pastor and staff.

To the Congregation

Deacons promote unity and goodwill within the church, strengthen confidence in pastoral leadership, and care for the spiritual welfare of members.

To the Community

Deacons serve as ambassadors of the church. Their conduct should honor Christ and reflect genuine Christian testimony.



PART 5—RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS

The pastor, by virtue of office, serves as president of the corporation and chair of the board.

Deacons shall:

- Serve in an advisory role with the pastor in spiritual and administrative matters.
- Assist in administering church ordinances.
- Participate in membership review and church discipline.
- Accept assigned ministry portfolios as directed by the pastor.
- Serve on the official board and nominating committee as needed.

PART 6—ROLE OF DEACONS IN THE LIFE OF THE CONGREGATION

Deacons are expected to:

- Serve as counselors to the pastor.
- Assist with baptism, Lord's Supper, feet washing, and reception of new members.
- Mentor and support youth in faith and life.
- Ensure widows and vulnerable members are cared for.
- Oversee stewardship of church property and assets.
- Support financial systems in non-administrative roles.
- Serve on church boards and benevolence teams.
- Minister equitably to church and community needs.
- Work with lay ministers in member care.
- Communicate member needs to church leadership.
- Model Christlike character and faithful service.

