



Living out the **Gospel** as we **Gather** and **Go**.

The Role of Deacon

Objective: The Deacons lead and conduct practical service ministries for the church in addition to serving the physical needs of the church body. How this manifests itself, practically-speaking, will be contingent upon the personal “bent” and gifting of each Deacon.

Qualifications:

- Must have been a participating member of SBC for a minimum of one year (so as to observe the character of the member).
- Must be approved following the process defined in the SBC By-Laws.
- Models service in the local church.
- Must be a mature believer, not a recent convert.
- Must be a godly man that is trusted by and has credibility in the Church.
- Committed to the Word of God and shares the theological convictions of Shadowbrook Church.
- Seeks and driven by the will of God.

Motivations:

A man should aspire to be a Deacon. He should also naturally enjoy serving, especially in the behind-the-scenes, service-related work done inside the local church. The man must be willing to answer the call to serve the Lord and be willing to sacrifice for the local church. He does this for the glory of God alone and because of his love for God, Jesus Christ and the local church. The man will view himself as a servant and as a steward of God and His church, expected to work hard, and for advancing the gospel of Jesus Christ. He should delight in his Deacon service and never view it as a duty. The Deacon should commit and devote the time to the duties and responsibilities of being a servant in the church.

GENERAL RESPONSIBILITIES

These responsibilities will be carried out by all deacons who are servants to the church and the church's outreach to the community (see 1 Peter 4:11b). The items listed below are the consistent and regular roles deacons will participate in for the church.

- Lord's Supper - occurs once a month in our Sunday gathering
- Assist in administering the offering on a rotational basis
- Widow and widower ministry. Regular contact with assigned widows/widowers
- Praying for the church members and needs that arise
- Set up & tear down of church building events (as needed)
- Lead within the church by developing people and promoting the vision of the church
- Attend quarterly meetings and special called meetings if needed
- If available, deacons can join the pastors and program team for prayer Sunday Mornings



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Shepherding and Strategic Responsibilities

The following two avenues for service will be determined within the deacon body once a deacon is affirmed. These areas of service will be based on interests, desires, spiritual gifting, and affirmations. The deacons work underneath the direction of the Elders to minister to the needs of the church body in one or more of the following ways. Deacons will commit to a few options under the track that suits their design.

SHEPHERDING SERVICE

Lead a Life Group – shepherd/teach a class. Exercise oversight in the class. Additionally, organize “go” activities with that class.

One on One Discipleship – One or Two guys in coaching/mentoring relationship where there is intentional spiritual formation and development.

Leading and organizing small prayer groups w/ lay members

New member ministry

Family ministry

Care and Hospital visitations

Care for Staff & Elders needs

Visits and call church members when needed. Be proactive to see where they anticipate need.

Other areas can be discovered and determined with a Deacon Coordinator

Deacon Coordinator

The Deacon Coordinator(s) will be appointed by the elders. They will help each Deacon pick from the two tracks above, a service that is most appropriate for the Deacon to follow. They will take lead in communication and responsibility for the other deacons. They will regularly encourage and evaluate the effectiveness of the deacon body. The Deacon Coordinator will compile and share success stories & “gather and go” wins from among the Deacon body and congregation. In addition, the deacon will help leadership identify challenges and setbacks in their service.

STRATEGIC SERVICE

Service in strategic direction given gifting in workplace to come alongside and assist the Elders in broad and general oversight of the entire church body: operational service needs.

- Finance
- Human Resources
- Facilities and Construction
- Technology and Equipment
- Risk Management & Legal Matters

Planning and Development for facilities and assets

Leadership training and development

Safety and Security within our Kids Area on Sunday A.M.

Community outreach

- Organizing evangelism opportunities
- Food pantry (Caring Heart)
- Other outreach events

Biblical Qualifications for Deacons

1 Timothy 3:8-13

8 Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued,3 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.

Acts 6:1-7

Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. 2 And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. 3 Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. 4 But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." 5 And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. 6 These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

Deacon Character (as identified in Scripture)

- Full of the Spirit & of faith/wisdom
- Above reproach – leads by example, demonstrates a godly lifestyle, no glaring signs of a lifestyle of sin
- Husband of one wife – if married, loves and is devoted to his wife
- Temperate – sober-minded, self-controlled, enslaved to nothing, disciplined
- Prudent – wise, sensible, reasonable, mature decision-maker, not superficial, balanced and sound judgment, knows and understands his own weaknesses
- Respectable, honorable, trustworthy, credible
- Hospitable – generous, sharing, ministers to others
- Manages own household well – healthy family life; children honor parents; Christian home; a man's household is the proving ground for ministry; parents children with dignity, love, discipline
- Good reputation with outsiders – Is he recognized as a strong Christian? Respected at job and in the community
- Loves what is good - desires and seeks God's will
- Just – impartial and desiring what is fair and righteous
- Devout – devoted, committed Christian who walks daily with the LORD and guards his faith
- Humble – humble before God and serves others with humility
- Not addicted to wine, not a drunkard, not a glutton – willing to limit personal liberty for the sake of others
- Not pugnacious or quick-tempered – gentle, patient, able to exercise restraint; cannot love conflict but must be firm when required
- Not contentious – not given to quarreling or arguing
- Does not love money – does not mean he does not make or have money, money does not control the man; is not stingy or greedy. Serves as an example to the church through generous giving of tithes and offerings.
- Not self-willed – does not try to force opinions on others; not stubborn
- Willing to serve and sacrifice for the church