



Role Profile - Deacon

PURPOSE

The term deacon comes from the Greek word *diákonos* meaning servant or minister.

The role or office of deacon was developed in the early church primarily to minister to the physical needs of the members of the body of Christ, freeing the elders to focus on prayer, studying and teaching God's Word, and pastoral care. The biblical requirements of deacons are similar to that of elders but there is a clear distinction in office. Deacons function as 'ones who serve', ministering to the body in practical ways and their ministry is vital to the effective operation of the church.

PROFILE

1 Timothy 3:8-12

ROLE

To take care of the physical, administrative and logistical needs of the church so that the elders can concentrate on their primary calling.

CHARACTERISTICS

Ideally a Deacon should:

- Love the Lord with all their heart and mind.
- Be an exemplary Christian, admired for their love and care of people.
- Be an expression of the Servant-Leader modeled so powerfully by Jesus Christ who gave Himself up for the Church and sought to exalt others above Himself.
- Acknowledge God's control of their lives and be willing to be led and empowered by the Holy Spirit.
- Be accepting of and hospitable to all.
- Have a consistent prayer life and personal Bible study routine.
- Be humble and respectful.
- Live a disciplined life, self-controlled, gentle and peace loving.
- Live wisely, by sound financial principles and not be greedy for money.
- Be committed to established Christian beliefs.
- If married, be faithful and loving to their married partner.
- Manage their family well.
- Not get drunk.
- Have a good reputation.

NOTE

The Chairperson of the Deacons will serve on the Leadership Council.



Selection Process

Selection of Deacons:

When new Deacon/s are required, the following process will be followed:

- The Leadership Council will invite all church members to put forward nominations
- The Leadership Council will review the suitability of the nominees in collaboration with the existing Deacons
- An existing Deacon will meet with the nominee/s and discuss the roles and responsibilities associated with the position. If necessary a second meeting may be arranged with the nominee and all the existing Deacons to ensure both parties agree to the appointment.
- Church members will be provided with a list of nominees.
- Feedback, queries and concerns regarding nominees may be expressed by church members to the chair of the Leadership Council up until the time of acceptance
- A secret ballot will be taken, where all members present will vote "yes" or "no" for each nominee. A 75% affirmative will be required from church members for the nominee to be appointed.

Tenure of Deacons:

- Deacons may serve up to two three-year terms, with a sabbatical on the seventh year; unless they are required to continue their term on the Leadership Council until the next term break.

Chair of Deacons membership of Leadership Council:

- The Chair of Deacons is to be selected by the existing Deacons.
- The Chair of Deacons will be listed among candidates for the Leadership Council election, and require 75% acceptance of members by secret ballot.
- If the candidate does not receive the required vote, the Deacons must nominate another candidate (Chair), who will undergo the same process, until 75% acceptance by the church members is achieved.

Role of Chair of Deacons on the Leadership Council:

The Chair of Deacons is a full Leadership Council member, with voice and voting rights. However, one of their unique and primary responsibilities will be to facilitate communication between the Leadership Council and Deacons and maintain a functional relationship between the two bodies.