

## II. DEACON

### A. Qualifications

1. All candidates for the office of Deacon must believe in and subscribe to the Doctrinal Statement, Covenant, and Constitution of this church. This is to be reaffirmed annually at a recognition service.
2. To be eligible, a candidate for the office of Deacon must be a member for at least one (1) year and be at least 21 years of age.
3. The Biblical qualifications of a Deacon are found in I Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-6.

### B. Selection and Election

Deacons shall be elected from the membership of the church. The number shall be determined by spiritual qualifications and the needs of the congregation at the recommendation of the Pastor(s) and Deacons(s) and upon the approval of the congregation. The Pastor(s) and Deacon(s) shall appoint a Nominating Committee to aid in the selection of Deacon candidates.

2. All members of the congregation shall be given the opportunity to submit in writing to the Nominating Committee the names of persons they suggest as candidates for the office of Deacon. The Nominating Committee shall consider, but not be bound by, these suggestions.
3. The Nominating Committee shall consider men whom they deem qualified to serve as Deacons, shall secure permission from anyone who is to be nominated and shall present a ballot of recommended names to the church at its 2nd Quarterly Business Meeting. The names of the nominees shall be publicly advertised within this church at least two (2) Sundays prior to the election.
4. Elections shall be by written ballot, with the goal of maintaining a ratio of not more than 15 member-families per each Deacons.

### C. Duties

1. It shall be the duty of the Deacons to assist the Pastor(s) in promoting the spiritual welfare of the church; to be his counselors; to exercise special and prudent watchcare over the church membership.
2. The Deacons shall be stewards of a Fellowship Fund for purposes of Christian charity.
3. They shall assist the Pastor in administering the Ordinances.
4. They, together with the Pastors, shall constitute the Discipline Committee.

5. The Chairman of the Deacons will be responsible for conducting services in the absence of a Pastor.

#### 6. Organization

a. At the first Deacons' meeting following the election, they shall choose from their number a Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary.

b. The Chairman will moderate meetings in the absence of a Pastor.

c. The Secretary shall keep a faithful record of any work, acts or transactions performed by the Deacons.

#### 7. Meetings

a. The Deacons shall conduct monthly meetings for the purposes of prayer, considering the welfare of the church and for discussion of any business pertinent to their ministry and the life of the church.

b. A Special Deacons' Meeting may be called at the discretion of the Senior Pastor and Chairman, or by three (3) Deacons.

c. A majority of the full number of Deacons shall constitute a Quorum.

8. The Deacons, along with the Pastors, shall be responsible for the examination and approval of all candidates for church membership, by a Membership Committee shall consist of Deacons and such other members as the Deacons deem necessary.

9. The Deacons shall serve as Corporate Trustees for the church. ( See Article IX, VII. Trustees.)

#### D. Term of Office

The term of office shall be for three (3) years and so arranged that where possible, one-third (1/3) of the deacons are elected each year. A Deacon, having served two (2) consecutive terms, shall be eligible for re-election after an interval of one or more years.

#### E. Recognition Service

A Recognition Service for all Deacons shall take place at the earliest possible public service following the election.

#### F. Discipline of Deacons

Any Deacon whose conduct is such that it might bring reproach upon the church or who fails to administer his office in a reasonable manner (I Timothy 3:1-13 and Titus 1:7-9) shall be removed from office by the recommendation of the Deacons and a vote of the church.

#### G. Vacancies

Midterm vacancies shall be filled by appointment by the Pastors and Deacons until the next regular election at which time any appointees may be considered as candidates for election to a full term as a Deacon.