



Deacon Philosophy and Process

1. Affirmations (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- a) We believe that the office of Deacon is commanded by God for the blessing of the church.
- b) We believe that Deacon is a particular office of the church, similar to Elder, with corresponding qualifications, requirements and rewards.
- c) We believe that the office of Deacon is of equal weight and value to the church as the office of Elder.
- d) We believe that the office of Deacon is intended to be for men of the church. We do not believe in the office of Deaconess.
- e) We believe that God specifically raises up and calls men to this office, which is then affirmed by the Elders and the congregation.
- f) We believe that God rewards Deacons with eternal and temporal rewards.
- g) We believe that the appointment to the office of Deacon is a lifelong appointment, by God, to the body of FBC. This office ends only with resignation, disqualification, or death.

2. Qualifications

- a) The Apostle Paul lays out specific qualifications for Deacons, as spelled out in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. These are:
 - 1) Dignity
 - 2) Not Double-tongued
 - 3) No Addictions
 - 4) Not fond of sordid gain
 - 5) Holding the faith with a clear conscience
 - 6) Not Gossips
 - 7) Temperate
 - 8) Faithful in everything
 - 9) Above reproach

10) Husband of one wife (a 'one-woman' man)

11) Excellent Manager of their household

- b) Qualifications should be affirmed during a time of 'testing'. We believe this is a process of service and observation in the church in specific ministry areas. As the Deacon continues to serve, his life and ministry will reflect these qualifications to the Elders and to the congregation.

3. Responsibilities

- a) Deacons are called to assist the Elders of the church in the various needs of the body. These may include:
- 1) Worship/Music/AV needs
 - 2) Logistics (set up, tear down)
 - 3) Finances
 - 4) Children's Ministry
 - 5) Greeting/New Visitor Care
 - 6) Mercy Ministries
 - 7) Anything else that frees up the Elders for the work of prayer and the Word (Acts 6:4)
- b) While the whole body is called to serve in a variety of different ways, Deacons are particularly called to provide leadership in these various areas. Other members of the body are serving under their care.

4. Process

- a) Deacon candidates should first be nominated by the Elders. Candidates may be nominated at various times throughout the year at the discretion of the Elders.
- b) Candidates will be presented for the office publicly at a church family meeting. At that time, the Elders will call the congregation to evaluate the lives of candidates for any areas where there may be concerns or questions.
- c) The congregation will have a month from the time of the meeting to address their concerns/questions. After that time, the process for training and installing the deacon will begin.
- 1) The congregation should address any concerns to either the candidate or to the Elders.
 - 2) Concerns should be dealt with completely prior to proceeding in the process.
- d) After nomination and presentation to the church, Deacon candidates will be tested through an one year period. This process will include teaching by the Elder over the Diaconate (Joe Koh), service, and evaluation, both of qualifications and service.

- e) Deacons will study the book *Paul's Vision For The Deacons* by Alexander Strauch
- f) After completing the process, the Deacon will fall into one of three possible positions:
 - 1) **Installation** - the installation process will proceed at a church family meeting with the laying on of hands of the Eldership.
 - 2) **Pause** - The candidate will put the installation process on hold for their or the Elders' concerns/observations. This is a waiting time for the candidate and is at the sole discretion of the Elders.
 - 3) **End** - The candidate will either not desire the office, or not be qualified, and will be asked to end their candidacy for that time. This does not mean that a candidate can never be considered again, but the formal process will have come to an end for that time.