

II. CHURCH OFFICERS

Section 8. Deacons

In accordance with the New Testament guidelines deacons are to be servants of the church. Deacons of the church shall be ordained to provide spiritual leadership for and service to the fellowship of the church. They shall guard the unity of spirit within the church, and shall recommend establishment of policies concerning the material interests of the church and its ministries, subject to the will of the church.

The ministry of the deacon is to serve with the pastor and shall be to carry out God's work in the church and community in assisting the church members and others in the community when needs arise. The deacons shall have responsibilities and duties specified in the New Testament or as specified by the church family. The deacons shall assist the pastor in the administration of the ordinances and help the pastor in the general work of the church. Matters pertaining to the operation of the church may be presented and discussed in deacons' meetings for counsel, clarification, and affirmation before presentation to the congregation. This will allow the pastor and other church staff to use the deacons as a sounding board in such matters. Every deacon of the church is expected to seek out and occupy a chosen place of service in the church program in addition to performing services as a deacon.

The chairman and vice-chairman of the deacons in consultation with the pastor shall determine whether the active deacon body is large enough to carry out its ministries and make such recommendations to the church. Only those persons who meet the scriptural qualifications set forth in Acts 6: 1-6 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, and who have been members of the church for at least one year shall be considered. Nominations shall be made by the church body to a committee selected by the deacon body. This special Qualification Committee shall return a slate of qualified nominees to be elected by the church body. This slate shall be elected *en toto*, with a majority vote required for election. Those elected individuals will be available for ordination. The deacon body will call an ordination council of ordained ministers and deacons to question the individual(s) on the truths of their faith and their qualifications. Upon completion of this examination, the ordination council will make a recommendation to the church for their ordination. Once ordained, deacons shall serve thereafter as long as they are faithful to their duties and continue to meet the scriptural qualifications.

The officers of the deacons will be chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. They shall be elected each year. The deacon body will meet regularly once each month. The normal meeting time is Sunday evening following the evening service on the Sunday immediately preceding the last Wednesday of the month which is the time of the church's regularly scheduled business meeting. Special deacon meetings may be called by the chairman of the deacons or the pastor and every member of the deacon body shall be notified twenty-four hours in advance if a special meeting is called. A quorum shall consist of all members present at the regularly scheduled or special meeting.

There shall be no obligation to recognize a deacon who comes to this church from another Baptist church of like faith and order, but after six months the deacon may be considered by the deacon body and recommended by the deacon body to the church. A majority vote of the church members present shall entitle the deacon to serve as part of the deacon body of this church.