NEW LIFE

Deacons Qualification

Service is at the core of what it means to be a deacon. Deacon means diakonos in the Greek, meaning servant or minister and appears 29 times in the New Testament. But only four occurrences refer to someone holding an office, the rest simply mean servant, messenger, or one who ministers for others.

Deacons assist elders, guard the ministry of the Word, organize service, care for the needy, protect unity, and mobilize ministry. Biblically, there are instances of elders providing vision, and Deacons executing the vision. Deacons are not pseudo-elders nor are they glorified janitors.

Stephen was a deacon in Acts 6. He waited tables, but he also preached the word and became the church's first martyr. Phoebe, was commended for her service in a diaconal capacity and called diakonos in Romans.

Deacons are servant-leaders whose work freed the elders (pastors) to focus on prayer and the Word. Serving meant caring for the poor, protecting church unity, handling practical ministry, occasionally speaking Gospel truth, and in some cases, giving up their lives. It's far more than logistics, it's a calling of deep character, being grounded in theology, and sacrificially loving God and the Church. That's why the character qualifications are nearly identical for elders and deacons.

Prerequisites:

1. Personal confession that Jesus is Lord and Savior (have been baptized)
2. Must have been a regular worshiper at New Life for minimum of one year
3. Must have regularly served in any ministry for at least one year
4. Currently or previously in a CG in an active role
5. Must exhibit W.O.R.K.S lifestyle
    a. Worship, Ongoing Relationship with God, Relational Community Groups, Kingdom Giving, Sacrificial Mission
6. Must complete deacon training
    a. While we deeply value previous experience and leadership, at the same time, we've found it's important for every leader to walk through our process so we can build shared culture, expectations, and relations together. This isn't about questioning past service, it's about helping everyone lead from the same foundation within our church.

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Training

1. Training (July - December)
2. Annual Retreat Participation (Date TBD)
3. Must volunteer rotationally in various ministries of the church (during September and October)
4. To participate in a mission trip (local or overseas) within 2 years

Time Commitment

1. Training Session run July through December. September/October includes dates for serving and sessions. Tentative dates:
    a. July 4, August 1, Sep 5, 12, 19, 26, Oct 3, 18, 25, Nov 7, Dec 5
2. Monthly prayer and leaders meeting - Saturdays morning prayer once a month followed by a training. Time is from 7:00-9:30am (First Saturday of the month from September through December with dates listed above).
3. At least one shepherding check-in
4. Serve (during training period) within other ministries on a rotation basis in September and October on Sunday
5. 2-year term beginning in January with quarterly meetings.

Characteristics and Skills:

1. Serving
2. Spiritual maturity
3. Shepherding
4. Humility
5. Confidentiality
6. Ability to work within a team

Joyful Duties:

1. Continue active serving in a church ministry
2. Assist with Membership, Finance Committee, Communion preparation, Care Ministry or Team, and other areas of serving and spiritual coverage after training.
3. Help shepherd the congregation alongside pastoral leadership
4. Provide consistent spiritual coverage for the body through serving and prayer.

Refer to Titus 1:5-9, 1 Peter 5:1-4; James 5:14; Acts 20:28-32; 1 Timothy 3:1-13

Character (elder and deacon)

1. “C”—Character (1 Timothy 3:2–7 and Titus 1:6–9)
    - Above reproach—Must lead by example and demonstrate a lifestyle free from patterns of sin.
    - Husband of one wife—If married, must be devoted spouses. Partner must be equally yoked (2 Corinthians 6:14).
    - Temperate—Must be self-controlled, enslaved to nothing, and free from excesses.
    - Prudent—Must be sober, sensible, wise, balanced in judgment, not given to quick, superficial decisions based on immature thinking.
    - Respectable—Must demonstrate a well-ordered life and honorable behavior.
    - Hospitable—Must be unselfish with personal resources, willing to share blessings with others.
    - Able to teach—Must be able to communicate truth and sound doctrine in a non-argumentative way.
    - Not addicted to wine—Must be free from addictions and willing to limit their liberty for the sake of others.
    - Not pugnacious or quick-tempered—Must be gentle, patient, and able to exercise self-control in difficult situations.
    - Uncontentious—Must not be given to quarreling or selfish argumentation.
    - Free from the love of money—Must not be stingy, greedy, or for sordid gain, or preoccupied with amassing material things.
    - Manage own household—Must have a well-ordered household and a healthy family life.
    - Not a new convert/not a new believer—Must not be new believers. They must have been a Christian long enough to demonstrate the reality of their conversion and depth of spirituality.
    - Good reputation with outsiders—Must be well-respected by unbelievers and free from hypocrisy.
    - Not self-willed—Must not be stubborn, or prone to forcing their opinions on others or abusing authority. They must be servant-minded.
    - Loving what is good—Must desire the will of God in every decision.
    - Just—Must desire to be fair and impartial. Their judgments must be based on scriptural principles.
    - Devout—Must be devoted Christ followers, seeking to be conformed to His image. They must be committed to prayer, worship, the study of Scripture, and the guarding of their spiritual walk.
    - Holding fast the faithful Word—Must be stable in the faith, obedient to the Word of God, and continually seeking to be controlled by the Holy Spirit.