

DEACON CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS AND QUESTIONNAIRE

FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH

Congratulations on being nominated for a very special place of service here at Fairview Baptist Church. A deacon is a scripturally qualified active member, chosen by the people, who is both willing and able to serve the Lord within a local body of believers.

DEACON NOMINATION PROCESS

We have a seven-step process for nominating and voting on deacons at Fairview Baptist Church.

1. Nomination by the church
2. Deacon/Pastoral review of the nominees
3. The Nominee's response (this questionnaire)
4. Personal interview with Pastor & current deacon chairman
5. Personal Interview (for all first time Fairview deacon candidates)
6. Church votes individually for each candidate (2/3rd's vote required)
7. Ordination (or re-installment of a previously ordained deacon)

THE BIBLICAL GUIDELINES FOR DEACON MINISTRY

The word deacon is a translation of the New Testament Greek term *diakonos*, which means servant or messenger, and is used three times in the New Testament in reference to the church office (Rom. 16:1; Phil. 1:1; 1 Tim. 3:8, 12). While the word deacon is not used in Acts 6:1-4, this passage is widely viewed as the early church prototype for a deacon and serves as a helpful pattern. The deacons serve in partnership with pastors as one of the two biblical offices in the church. Their primary focus is on the service-oriented and administrative tasks primarily related to the physical needs of the church and her members (Acts 6:1-4).

THE BIBLICAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS

The deacons provide leadership in the service-oriented and administrative matters pertaining to the physical needs of the church (Acts 6:1-4; 1 Tim. 3:8-13). Based on the scriptural qualifications, deacons serve in areas like finances (1 Tim. 3:8), administration (1 Tim. 3:12), visitation (1 Tim. 3:11), and ministering to the needs of the church family (Acts 6:1-4).

QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONS

In order to help you look at some very important aspects of this ministry as well as assuring our present leadership and church family of continued godly servants, we ask you consider these qualifications. Please be honest and forthright. It is intended to help you understand the qualifications of a deacon, where you are spiritually, your

wife's support in this matter, and your support of the ministry of Fairview Baptist Church.

The questions are not designed to help us find perfect men, but Spirit-filled men under the correction of God's word who are willing to grow in the Lord and serve this church alongside the leadership of the church staff.

This may take a little time to complete, so please find a quiet place away from any interruptions. After completion and you still want to be considered as a deacon, please put the questionnaire back in the envelope and place it on the pastor's desk within 2 weeks of receiving it. If you have some questions about this questionnaire or this selection process, please call one of the pastors or the Chairman of Deacons.

Would others consider you to be "*Full of the Spirit and Wisdom*" (Acts 6:3)?

Would others consider you to be "*Worthy of Respect*" (1 Tim. 3:8)? This term normally refers to something that is honorable, respectable, esteemed, or worthy, and is closely related to "respectable," which is given as a qualification for elders.

Would you and others consider yourself to be "*Not Double-tongued*" (1 Tim. 3:8)? Those who are double-tongued say one thing to certain people but then say something else to others, or say one thing but mean another. They are two-faced and insincere. Their words cannot be trusted, so they lack credibility.

Are you "*Addicted to Intoxicating Substances*" (1 Tim. 3:8)? A man is disqualified for the office of deacon if he is addicted to strong drink or other intoxicating substances. Such a person lacks self-control and is undisciplined.

Would you and others consider yourself to be "*Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain*" (1 Tim. 3:8)? If a person is a lover of money, he is not qualified to be a deacon, especially since deacons often handle financial matters for the church. This can also relate to one's stewardship and commitment to regularly give to the ministries of the church.

Would you and others consider yourself to be “*Sound in Faith and Life*” (1 Tim. 3:9)? Paul also indicates that a deacon must “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” The phrase “the mystery of the faith” is simply one way Paul speaks of the gospel (cf. 1 Tim. 3:16). Consequently, this statement refers to the need for deacons to hold firm to the true gospel without wavering. This would also include agreement with the doctrinal statement of our church family (The Baptist Faith and Message). Yet this qualification does not merely involve one’s beliefs, for he must also hold these beliefs “with a clear conscience.” That is, the behavior of a deacon must be consistent with his beliefs.

Would you and others consider yourself to be “*Tested and Blameless*” (1 Tim. 3:10)? Paul writes that deacons must “be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless” (v. 10). “Blameless” is a general term referring to a person’s overall character. Although Paul does not specify what type of testing is to take place, at a minimum, the candidate’s personal background, reputation, and theological positions should be examined. Moreover, the congregation should not only examine a potential deacon’s moral, spiritual, and doctrinal maturity, but should also consider the person’s track record of service in the church.

Would you and others attest to having a “*Godly Wife*” (1 Tim. 3:11)? According to Paul, deacons’ wives must “be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things” (v. 11). Like her husband, the wife must be dignified or respectable. Secondly, she must not be a slanderer or a person who goes around spreading gossip. A deacon’s wife must also be sober-minded or temperate. That is, she must be able to make good judgments and must not be involved in things that might hinder such judgment. Finally, she must be “faithful in all things” (cf. 1 Tim. 5:10). This is a general requirement which functions similarly to the requirement for elders to be “above reproach” (1 Tim. 3:2; Titus 1:6) and for deacons to be “blameless” (1 Tim. 3:10).

Are you “*The Husband of One Wife*” (1 Tim. 3:12)? This requirement refers to the faithfulness of a husband toward his wife. He must be a “one-woman man.” That is,

there must be no other woman in his life to whom he relates in an intimate way either emotionally or physically.

Do you faithfully “*Manage your Children and Household*” (1 Tim. 3:12)? A deacon must be the spiritual leader of his wife and children.

PERSONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Have you repented of your sin and placed your faith in Jesus Christ, and have you been baptized as a believer?

Are you committed to the mission of our church in making disciples of Jesus Christ (personal evangelism and disciple-making)?

Will you faithfully demonstrate our core values of gospel transformation (repentance, prayer, bible study), **loving community** (actively involved in life groups, committed to caring for our church family, and guarding the unity of our church), **and missional living** (serving in our church ministries as well as supporting missions by going or giving)?

Are you financially committed to Fairview Baptist Church by regularly giving to our church family?

In what ways have you led and served in our church or in previous church families?

Is your wife fully on board with you serving as a deacon at Fairview Baptist Church?

THE EXPECTATIONS OF FAIRVIEW DEACONS

1. Deacons are expected to lead alongside the pastoral staff in helping the church family pursue the mission of making disciples of Jesus Christ.
2. Deacons are expected to guard the unity of the church and demonstrate the core values of gospel transformation, loving community, and missional living.
3. Deacons are expected to be active members in good standing (worship and life group attendance, serving the ministries of the church, and involved in missions by going or giving) as well as regularly contributing financially to the ministries of the church.
4. Deacons are expected to provide servant and administrative leadership in areas like finances (1 Tim. 3:8), administration (1 Tim. 3:12), visitation (1 Tim. 3:11), and ministering to the needs of the church family (Acts 6:1-4).
5. Deacons are assigned care for Life Groups and leadership support.
6. Deacons are expected to be available to minister to families in times of death, sickness, hospitalization, and as requested or needed.
7. Deacons are expected to be available to provide assistance and prayer as needed.
8. Deacons are expected to serve as support and an advisory team to the church staff.
9. Deacons are expected to assist the pastoral staff in the congregational observance of the Lord's Supper.
10. Deacons may also serve as counters on a monthly rotation to help assure the accurate handling and recording of tithes and offerings.

PERSONAL COMMITMENT

I have read and worked through this questionnaire, and have answered the questions to the best of my ability. I understand and accept the requirements as laid out. If selected I would serve to the best of my ability, knowing that I can only do so out of a personal, vibrant relationship with Jesus Christ.

Signature and Date: _____