



WHAT IS A DEACON?

Deacons of Summersville Christian Church are those dedicated to love one another through service concerning the physical and material needs of the church.

Deacon Qualifications (1 Timothy 3:8-12)

- Dignified - Deacons must be mature, not behaving childishly or foolishly.
- Not double-tongued - Deacons must be men of their word, honest, trustworthy.
- Not addicted to much wine - Deacons must be men of moderation, never drinking to excess.
- Not greedy - Deacons must not be grasping or overly materialistic.
- Committed in faith and life - Deacons must embrace their faith without reservation.
- Beyond reproach - Deacons must be tested to prove their blameless character and service record.
- Deacons must be husband to only one wife, who must be "dignified, not malicious gossips, but sober-minded, faithful in all things".
- Deacons must manage their children and households well, being the spiritual leader of his home.

Service to the Church (Acts 6:1-6, 1 Timothy 3:13).

The office of deacon was created in the early Church to serve the needs of others. Deacons must, therefore, be engaged in service. Deacons do whatever is necessary to allow the Elders to accomplish their God-given calling. Elders delegate certain physical service responsibilities to the Deacons so that the Elders can focus their efforts on spiritual responsibilities.

How a prospective Deacon would be expected to serve in God's church

Focus & Understanding

- ★ Serve with gospel-driven humility & servant leadership
- ★ Create unity within the church leadership & the congregation
- ★ Be transparent, willing to discuss personal and family matters, pray for one another, confess sin and discouragement, and rejoice in each other's blessings.
- ★ Be discreet, keeping matters discussed in leadership meetings confidential.

Expected Areas of Service depending on the particular needs of the church and the deacon's particular gifts. These could include, but are not limited to:

- Benevolence: administering funds or other assistance to the needy.
- Facilities: managing church property.
- Finances: collecting and counting the offering, keeping records, and so on.
- Ushers: seating the congregation or preparing the elements for communion.
- Train up men
- Prayer Meetings on Wednesdays
- Board meetings once a month
- Commission Sunday - held during financial report first Sunday in February
- Although not required biblically to teach, some deacons may serve as teachers, if they have that gift, because they are dedicated men of God, who have obtained "a high standing and great confidence in the faith."

Relationship between elder and deacon functions *(Acts 6:1-6)*

1. Elders should be careful to keep administrative matters from dominating their agenda. The work of the elders can easily be overwhelmed by a church's unending stream of seemingly urgent physical matters, yet this is not the elders' main task. Elders should delegate responsibilities to faithful servants (including deacons) and trust them to capably handle such matters.
2. Elders should model good communication. Proverbs 15:22: "Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed." Elders should seek counsel from the deacons and others before making most, but not all, decisions. Lines of communication should be open between the elders and the deacons, even on those decisions which are the sole purview of the elders.
3. Elders should be diligent in their efforts to build trust with the deacons. As the deacons' trust and confidence in their elders grows, the church will enjoy the unity that defeats the evil one's divisive ways.

The main difference between an elder and a deacon is a difference of gifts and calling, not character. (1 Cor. 12:7) Each person is to use his gift to discourage division and edify Christ's body.