

Deacons' Handbook

THE MINISTRY OF A DEACON

The responsibilities of deacons are important and not left to just any member of the congregation. The function of the deacon is to serve the church body in its spiritual needs. In this capacity the deacon shall be responsible for carrying out the following duties:

- Assist in the worship services - deacons are servants.
- Deacons are leaders. Because of the very nature of their calling and work, deacons are to lead out in the church.
- Counsel with and assist the pastoral staff in matters relative to the spiritual needs of the church community.
- Deacons are the eyes, ears, hands, arms and feet of the pastor. The deacon works in harmony with the pastor.
- Deacons attend midweek prayer service at least once a month.
- Deacons make hospital, health care facilities, and home visits to shut-in members as time permits.
- Deacons should assist in bring communion to shut-in members.
- Deacons should extend greeting to all who come to worship services – especially to those who are not members.
- Deacons are examples. They are to have such character, dedication and Integrity that others in the church can look to them as examples and role models. A deacon is a team player who enhances the qualities of the members.
- A deacon accommodates to other people's needs. A deacon knows how to relate to people and likes them. A deacon has a great deal of energy. A deacon is sensitive to the feelings of others. A deacon is able to build trust with almost every member. A deacon is "a person of prayer." Therefore, deacons are often advisors to the pastor and congregation.
- Since the deacon has special interest pertaining to the programs of the church, the deacon should be present at such meetings where information concerning these programs are presented.

From all this it is evident that the office of the deacon is a noble one, Christ-like in character, and endowed with sound judgment, and a generous amount of genuine Christian courage.

CODE OF CONDUCT

- Support all Church Ministries and tithe
- Participate in Christian growth study
- Private devotional life - strives to lead a Spirit-filled life
- Strive to be the most informed member of the Church
- If possible, during all services, Deacons should sit near the front
- Must uphold/follow the Church Covenant
- Attend monthly Deacon's meetings
- Faithful example to others with attendance/visibility in worship services, etc.

THE DRESS OF DEACONS

During First Sundays' Services, Deacons should wear white shirts/blouses with a black tie (black tie may be optional for women). A white outer garment (coat/jacket) with black pants/skirt should be considered appropriate wear.

Shoes should be black. Handkerchief should also be black and placed in the upper left-hand side of the coat with approximately one-half inch visibility.

We, the committee, commit these standards to the Third Baptist's Deacons Ministry for ourselves and those who would serve after us.

Arnett B. Caviel, Chair

William Hunter

Liuie Nelson

Georgia Robinson

Clarence Santee

Garnett Smith