

# DEACON MINISTRY --

## Biblical Deacon Description

### 1. Selection: I Timothy 3:8-13

Men should be sought out of the congregation who have the right qualifications.

- Spiritual requirements
  - "Full of the Holy Spirit"
  - "Full of Wisdom"
  - "Full of Faith"
- Moral qualifications
  - A man who counts (is dependable)
  - Right in regard to speech
  - Right in regard to strong drink (does not drink alcohol)
  - Right in regard to managing money and giving a tithe (10%) to God's church.
- Doctrinal qualifications
  - Know and understand the doctrines (correct teachings) of the Bible
  - Know and understand distinctive teachings of Southern Baptists
- Personal qualifications
  - Husband of one wife, if married
  - Rule well his own household and children
  - Head of his own family - exemplary home
  - Trusted and serves his church well

### 2. How Deacons are Chosen: Acts 6:3-6

Scriptural precedents along with established tradition indicates the following steps in the choice of deacons.

- Earnest prayer for guidance.
- Clear expectation of basic requirements and duties
- Determination of the number needed
- Nomination by a competent committee
- Ballots cast by numbers to determine their choice
- Election declared on the basis of returns
- Ordination of newly elected deacons

The deacon ordination service, generally conducted by the local church with special invited guests, should be at a time when the church membership can be present.

### 3. The Ordination Service

The ordination service should be carefully planned and should be a memorable experience, especially in the lives of those ordained. An order of service may similar to the one that follows, as an example, or may be developed at the choice of the local church:

- a. **Reading of minutes** - showing the action of the church in election of the deacons.
- b. **Prayer** - of thanksgiving and for guidance
- c. **Scripture Reading:** Acts 6:1-7; I Timothy 3:1-13
- d. **Formation of Ordination Council** – Invited ordained men meet to form “a special advisory council to the local church.”
- e. **Inquiry** (led by the pastor or other appointed minister) - The deacons being ordained tell of their conversion, activities in the church, concept of the office of deacon, relationship to the pastor, deacons spiritual responsibilities, deacons example, practical duties, and doctrinal convictions.
- f. **Report of Ordination Council** – Special advisory council meets and reports their recommendation to the church, as to whether proceed (or not to proceed) with ordination.
- g. **Ordination Council dissolved** – Upon the completion of their task and upon a motion to do so.
- h. **Charge to the deacons** - Brief message to those being ordained.
- i. **Charge to the church** - Brief message to the church outlining responsibilities of prayer, congregation and promotion of the well being of the church to maintain a healthy church.
- j. **Laying on of hands** - Ordained men placing their hands on heads of those being ordained and praying for and encouraging them.
- k. **Ordaining Prayer** - For guidance, divine approval, protection and blessings on those being ordained.
- l. **Hand of Fellowship** - By the entire church

Please email [Randy Ewart, DOM](mailto:Randy.Ewart@fbcfl.com), about resources that are available through our office, including one of our newest studies, "Deacons: Growing in Character and Commitment" and "Deacons: Partners in Ministry and Growth," written by Jim Henry, pastor of FBC Orlando, Florida and past president of the Southern Baptist Convention.