

Our Church Mandate to Deacons

Revised ___/___/___

All church officers (elders and deacons) represent Christ, the Lord, in the corporate life of his people. The office of deacon is designed to administer the mercy of Christ to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

The deacons are called upon to stimulate the members of Christ's church to faithful, obedient stewardship of their resources on behalf of the needy. Along with loving deeds and with gifts of money and assistance, the deacons serve the needy with counsel, leading people to see the grace of our loving Savior and recognize the Lord through whom all blessings flow.

Administrative Deacons:

Administrative Deacons, along with Administrative Elders, have the authority to act on all matters consistent within the budgets, policies, and goals approved by the Council. They are to provide visionary leadership for the ministry of the church. They are responsible for maintaining a suitable environment for the local body of Christ to operate efficiently and effectively in building the body of Christ.

Service Deacons:

Service Deacons have the responsibility to lead the church in a Christ-like ministry of mercy, encouraging faithful stewardship and showing compassion on the distressed, all with words of biblical encouragement and testimony which assure the unity of Word and deed.

The Service Deacons meet at least monthly. They elect annually, from within the membership of the Service Deacons, a chairperson, vice-chairperson, correspondence secretary, and recording secretary. Deacon Representatives are assigned for various ministries in which the deacons take a special interest. They are responsible for the offering schedule and collecting. They monitor the work of the Counting Committee. They record the gifts of the church and issue giving statements regularly. They provide input to the Administration Team and Council in the development and assessment of goals and strategic plans.

Specifically, the Service Deacons are responsible to:

Promote Stewardship

1. Promote generous faithful stewardship among the members of the church in coordination with the budget process carried out by the Administration Team.

2. Determine priorities for the giving of the congregation to special causes and evaluate requests for support.
3. Encourage and support Christian education and give direction to the Christian Education Committee, a subcommittee of Service Deacons.

Show Mercy

1. Congregational Benevolence--Respond compassionately to the benevolence needs of the members of the congregation, ministering to the sick, the needy, the hospitalized, the disadvantaged, the widows and widowers, and all who are in special need. They minister not only with funds but also with counsel, with compassion, with prayer, and with encouragement.
2. Community Benevolence--Actively support ministries of mercy, service, and justice in response to the economic, physical, and spiritual needs of persons living in the broader community and around the world.
3. World Relief Projects--Assist in places of disaster and difficulty where no local diaconate can reach. Discuss projects of world relief and ways of assisting with disaster, hunger, and poverty, utilizing our denominational ministries.
4. Christian Education—Support the efforts of the Christian Education Team in meeting the needs of members with children in elementary and secondary Christian schools.

Reach Out

1. Lead the church in responding to issues of waste, injustice, and selfishness in our society.
2. Work closely with Our Church's evangelistic and outreach programs in developing responses to people with needs in our community and around the world.
3. Encourage the work of the Faith Promise Mission Team and regularly receive reports on their work in our community and worldwide.
4. Work with the deacons of neighboring churches in demonstrating the love of Christ in diaconal service.