**Mandate to the Service Deacons**

All church officers (elders and deacons) represent Christ, the Lord, in the corporate life of his people. The office of Service Deacon is designed to administer the mercy of Christ to the family of believers and others in need.

The Service Deacons are called 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 Service 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.

Service Deacons have the responsibility to lead the church in a Christ-like ministry of mercy. They encourage faithful stewardship and show compassion to the distressed in 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, and correspondence secretary.
* Service Deacon Representatives are assigned for various ministries in which the deacons take a special interest.

**Promoting Stewardship**

* Assist members in understanding and applying biblical stewardship principles that develop financial and spiritual maturity.
* Encourage and support Christian education and give direction to the Christian Education Committee, a subcommittee of Service Deacons.
* Responsible for creating the offering schedule.
* Monitor the work of the Counting Committee.
* Record the gifts of the church and regularly issue giving statements.

**Showing Mercy & Justice**

* 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.
* 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.
* World Renew 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.

**Outreach and Community Development**

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