



DEACONS AT LIVING STONES

God has commissioned two formal offices for His church; elders (used interchangeably with pastor or overseer) and deacons. Elders are called to lead the church through preaching the word, governing oversight, protecting sound doctrine, and pastoral care. Deacons lead the church by caring for specific needs of the church, its members, and the city it seeks to love. Together these offices equip the church to accomplish the God-given commands to preach the gospel, love God, and love our neighbors.

Other resources exist to explain the office of deaconship biblically and historically. This brief document exists to define the role, qualifications, appointment, and function of Deacons at Living Stones.

LIVING STONES DEFINITION OF DEACON

Deacons are God-given male and female servant leaders of reputable character, who are full of the Spirit and of wisdom, and appointed by the elders to serve crucial needs of the church so that the elders can devote themselves to the ministry of the word and to prayer (Romans 16:1, Acts 6:1-7, 1 Timothy 3:8-13).

DEACON QUALIFICATIONS

In order to be a deacon at Living Stones, three qualifications must be met:

1. Before being appointed to the office, their life bears witness to the character qualifications described in 1 Timothy 3:8-13:

Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. [Women] likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. (*women can also be translated "wives")*

2. They have been a Covenant Member in good standing for one year.
3. They affirm orthodox Christian theology as well as the distinctive beliefs of Living Stones.

APPOINTMENT OF DEACONS

Each local Living Stones elder board will appoint deacons annually according to the needs of the church. No formal training is required for the appointment of deacons except that each one has a good understanding of the gospel, and of the office they are being appointed to. After deacons are selected, they will be presented before the congregation for a formal commissioning by the laying on of hands and prayer. The term for each deacon is one year. Deacons may serve multiple terms in a row according to the determination of the elder board.

Deacons will gather together no less than 3 times a year with the Pastor(s) for alignment, prayer, encouragement, and direction.

Deacons can be removed at any time by the elders for violation of character or after a crucial task is completed.

TASKS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEACONS

Every member of the local church is called to serve in some capacity. The difference is that deacons are members who aid the elders in ministries and directly report to the elders. This means that not every leader at Living Stones is a deacon. Rather, deacons are appointed to lead and carry out specific and crucial tasks according to the needs of the church as it pertains to the ministry of the Elders and the church's mission in the city. The number of deacons at each local Living Stones will vary according to what tasks and responsibilities need to be accomplished. Some examples of these responsibilities at Living Stones include:

- Working on staff in an associate, director or executive role (any support level staff do not need to be deacons)
- Managing Benevolence
- Leading a group of Sunday ministries or a single large ministry (ie. prayer, LS Kids)
- Women's ministry leader
- Soul Care Leader
- Community Group Coach
- Mission to the city ministry on behalf of Living Stones (ie. Foster/Adoption, Gospel Mission, Scarlet Hope, etc.)
- Band/Music Leader
- Advisory council to the Elders

DEACON COVENANT

I, _____, commit to fulfilling the office of deacon at Living Stones _____ for one year starting in the month of _____, _____. I agree to fulfill the requirements of my office to the best of my ability, empowered by the Holy Spirit. If I disqualify myself in character, am unable to fulfill my duties as a deacon, or am no longer able to hold to my membership covenant, I will make it known to the pastors, and if necessary, will step down from the position in the healthiest way possible for the sake of Christ's church.

Signature _____ Date _____

Those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus. - 1 Timothy 3:13