

## **POSITION DESCRIPTION DEACON**

### From the Book of Order, G-2.0102. Ordered Ministries

The Church's ordered ministries described in the New Testament and maintained by this church are deacons and presbyters (teaching elders and ruling elders). Ordered ministries are gifts to the church to order its life so that the ministry of the whole people of God may flourish. The existence of these ordered ministries in no way diminishes the importance of the commitment of all members to the total ministry of the church. The government of this church is representative, and the right of God's people to elect presbyters and deacons is inalienable. Therefore, no person can be placed in any ordered ministry in a congregation or council of the church except by election of that body. Ordination to the ministry of teaching elder, ruling elder, or deacon is unique to that order of ministry.

### From the Book of Order, G-2.0104. Gifts and Qualifications

To those called to exercise special functions in the church—deacons, ruling elders, and teaching elders—God gives suitable gifts for their various duties. In addition to possessing the necessary gifts and abilities, those who undertake particular ministries should be persons of strong faith, dedicated discipleship, and love of Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. Their manner of life should be a demonstration of the Christian gospel in the church and the world.

### From the Book of Order, G-2.0201 ~ Deacon defined.

The ministry of deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, witness, and service, sharing in the redeeming love of Jesus Christ for the poor, the hungry, the sick, the lost, the friendless, the oppressed, those burdened by unjust policies or structures, or anyone in distress. Persons of spiritual character, honest repute, exemplary lives, brotherly and sisterly love, sincere compassion, and sound judgment should be chosen for this ministry. The ministry of deacons is under the supervision and authority of the session (G-2.0202).

### Specific Tasks

1. **Caring for our congregation ... *making pastoral calls*** to those who are sick/recuperating from illness, those who are homebound and those who are widowed.
  
2. **Connecting with our congregation ... *calling each member*** of our congregation three times each year to invite them to fellowship, ***writing cards to congregation members*** to congratulate them on life achievements such as births, weddings and graduations or to console and support those who are grieving ***and participating in the sacrament of communion in worship services.***

### Terms of Service

- Deacons are elected for a three-year term. Training will take place in the quarter before term of service begins.
- Once ordained, one is a deacon whether currently serving or not.

### **Time Investment and Technical Skills Needed**

- Regular worship attendance and participation in the life of the church
- 11 monthly meetings
- Currently, deacons meet the third Tuesday of each month (except August) at 7 p.m. in the chapel
- Monthly visits to members in need of pastoral care
- Three times a year, call a list of approximately 25 members
- Serve communion a minimum of four times per year in worship services
- Willingness to make phone calls
- Ability to use email and open attachments
- Access to the Internet and to a printer
- Willingness to be governed by the church's polity and to abide by its discipline
- Willingness to be a friend to colleagues in ministry, working with them, subject to the ordering of God's Will and Spirit
- Joyful service of the people with energy, intelligence, imagination and love

### **Youth Deacons**

Up to two youth deacons may be elected for a one-year term. It is expected that youth deacons will participate in most of the same activities as the adult deacons with some exception to pastoral calls. Based on the youth's maturity and interest, they may choose to make pastoral calls with appropriate adult guidance from family members and/or other deacons. The extent of participation in pastoral calls shall be at the discretion of the deacon moderator, the youth deacon and the youth's family.