

Deacons Ministry Team Procedures

The first Deacons (servant leaders) were elected by the body of believers at the request of the Apostles. The election process is not described in Scripture. The process presented here is designed to provide opportunity for the local body of believers to be involved in the selection (i.e., nomination and election) of Deacons.

This election process is designed to maintain a Deacon Team of 18 persons serving staggered three-year terms. The process thus requires the annual election of six members to replace those six whose terms are expiring. Deacons will serve one term and must remain off the Deacon Team for at least one year before being re-elected to active status.

There will be twelve persons nominated for the Deacon Team each year. The Congregation will then elect from this pool a total of six persons to serve for the next three years. The process shall begin each year in late June with a message on servant leadership by the pastor at a regular service of his choosing.

Nomination Process

Nominations shall come from the Elder Team. The meeting to begin the Deacon selection process will be held before the first Sunday in September. Prior to the meeting the Elder Team shall have been provided with a list of active members who meet the Biblical qualifications for Deacon and Church membership criteria, together with a list of those deacons currently serving and thus not eligible for nomination. Before the first Sunday in October the Elder Team shall deliver to the Church office a list of twelve members who exemplify the Biblical Deacon Election Criteria and who have agreed to serve if elected. A Facsimile Ballot will be printed in the Beacon the last Sunday in October.

The Deacon Election will take place at November Church Conference. The Elder Team shall have already delivered and collected ballots from the Clayton area incapacitated or shut-in members requesting them. The Elder Team will distribute, collect and count ballots.

As the ballots are distributed, members shall be instructed to vote for no more than six of the nominees. Votes shall be cast by drawing a circle around the names of the persons chosen. Incorrectly completed ballots shall not be counted.

Tabulation shall be on an official document listing all nominees with space for recording each vote received. The final count shall be attested by the Elder Team. The six nominees receiving the most votes shall be declared elected, having previously expressed willingness to serve. In the event of a tie for the sixth position, the person whose birthday falls first in the year shall be chosen.

The Elder Team will inform the Church of the persons elected and deliver the official ballot tabulation document to the Deacon Secretary. In the event of a vacancy in the Deacon Team, the person with the next greatest number of votes will be called into service.

Persons elected shall serve for three years or until their successors are elected. They shall assume office at the first regularly scheduled Deacon's meeting in January. An installation service will be planned for the first Sunday in January or as soon as can be scheduled, combined as necessary with an ordination service for Deacons elected for the first time.

Organization

Deacons whose ordinations have been approved by the Church shall be invited to join the Deacon Team.

Deacons elect their own officers who will serve no more than two consecutive years in the same position.

Deacon Ministry Team Responsibilities:

- Pastoral Care
- Discipleship
- Deacon Family Ministry
- Visitation of Members & Homebound
- Serving Communion
- Nursing Home Ministry