

## Deacon Mission of First Baptist Church (FBC) of Roswell

The mission of the deacon body at FBC Roswell is to serve the body of Christ under the leadership and direction of our Senior Pastor and the Lord Jesus Christ. Our focus is one that seeks to extend the reach of our ministerial staff in advancing the Kingdom of Jesus Christ by various means, including visiting FBC members in the hospital, contacting new members in order to encourage participation and involvement in the Bible Fellowship ministry, and partnering with the Outreach Directors of the Bible Fellowship classes to engage the community with gospel of Jesus Christ.

Pastor Matt has asked the deacon body to excel in the following areas:

Be a Pacesetter - We are to set the example for the entire congregation as true disciples of Christ who seek the good of others before we think of ourselves.

Be a Peacemaker - As a deacon we have forfeited the right to be a part of any problem. We are to always be a part of the solution, seeking to promote unity in the body of Christ as we stay on mission for the Kingdom.

Be a Prayer Warrior - We are committed to pray daily for our Pastor and our church in order that God's perfect plan would be accomplished and that Jesus Christ would be preeminent in every aspect of FBC Roswell.

Be a Promise Keeper - Faithful to our Lord; faithful to our families; faithful to our church. Let it be said of every deacon that we stayed on mission for Jesus and finished the race set before us in a way that pleases God.

*"Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to Him" 2 Corinthians 5:9*

### THE OFFICE OF THE DEACON IN SCRIPTURE

The introduction to the office of the Deacon comes in the New Testament in Acts 6. In this passage, a dilemma in the early church to which Deacons were chosen as a solution. The early days of growth through the ministry of the apostles were accompanied by many demands of service that they could not adequately perform. Thus, the appointment of Deacons provided support and service for the ministry of the gospel. It is also interesting to note in this first introduction the emphasis upon the character of the men chosen to serve as Deacons. No matter what the ministry to be performed was to involve, the life of the man chosen to perform it was to be the determining factor in the effectiveness. This reveals itself in two avenues specifically both personal character and spiritual character.

The term "Deacon" is a translation of the Greek word *diakinos*. This word simply means "one who serves." The picture of the servant we receive from the New Testament includes supporting, sharing, and sacrificing for the ministry of the Gospel. The focus of the Deacon ministry is always centered upon the fellowship of the local church. In fact, the Scriptural references to Deacons may be found in the above-

mentioned passage and in I Timothy 3. The letters to Timothy and Titus are known as Pastoral Epistles. The priority focus of the content of these letters is that of order and structure in the church. Thus, your appointment to the Deacon fellowship is to be fired primarily in relation to your role as a co-worker and fellow servant in the Gospel.

The Deacon is intended to serve as a model to the local church through the character of his life as well as through his involvement in ministry. Thus, this role is not intended to be sought after for personal honor, but rather is to be viewed as a call to greater commitment of service. The attitude and disposition of a servant is what qualifies one for the Deacon selection.

### **THE OFFICE DETERMINED**

If we were to combine the qualifications for the office of Deacon found in Acts 6 and I Timothy 3, these are essential to the services that the Deacon is expected to perform. As is true in the whole of the Christian walk, our doing always follows our being. That is, what we are is the most important factor in what we do. Each man chosen to serve in the fellowship of Deacons at FBC Roswell has been chosen on the basis of the following spiritual qualities. He is also expected to so nurture his personal and relational life so that he may be able to fulfill the responsibilities of ministry God has outlined for him in Scripture.

- Be above reproach both within and without the church (I Timothy 3:10)
- Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3)
- Not self-centered, quick tempered, violent, or contentious (I Timothy 3:3)
- Abstain from use of alcohol, illegal drugs, or the abuse of drugs that would distort your testimony or cause another believer to stumble (I Timothy 3:3, 8)
- Have control of his tongue as evidenced by the fact that he is not a gossip, can keep confidences, and is not a critical person (I Timothy 3:8, James 3:2)
- Be one who manages his own household well, resulting in love and respect from his wife and children if he is married. Be a one woman type man with a demonstrated knowledge of God ordained institution of marriage (I Timothy 3:12)
- Know what he believes and be able to discern false doctrine, as well as share the truth with others (I Timothy 3:2, 9, 16)
- Be free from the love of money and diligently seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness (I Timothy 3:8, Matthew 6:33)
- Be a mature Christian, not a new and immature convert (I Timothy 3:6, 10)
- Have a New Testament view of financial stewardship evidenced by his regular practice of giving generously through FBC Roswell as God has prospered him (I Corinthians 16:1-2). Certainly every Deacon would tithe 10% of his total income to the ministry of FBC Roswell.
- Do all in his power to create and preserve harmony in the church (I Timothy 3:13)
- Recognize the God given leadership role incumbent upon the pastor and seek to

serve under that leadership (Titus 1:5-9)

- If married, have a wife whose life is guided by these same principles (I Timothy 3:11)

In addition to the standards of life and character, Deacons in the FBC Roswell are expected to:

- Be in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the church.
- Be faithful in all respects to church membership through regular attendance at all major worship services and ministries.
- Be present at all scheduled and called Deacon Meetings unless providentially hindered.

Having thus surveyed the Biblical material relative to the Deacon office and having defined the term Deacon in light of the Biblical situation, it is now time to turn our attention to the Deacons mentioned in the New Testament who offer us a pattern for our ministry today.

### **THE OFFICE DEPICTED**

There are several things that need to be understood about the Deacon. One is that his selection is done by his fellow members and church leaders. Next, he is recognized by all to be faithful, and finally, the Deacon is to be seen as an extension of the preaching ministry. He is given the responsibility of making the truth of God's Word come alive in the fellowship of the local church. In this, Stephen is the most significant Biblical example of a New Testament Deacon. It is obvious from the context of Acts 6-7 that Stephen was mightily used by God in the 1st Century Church. Take time to read the challenging and stirring account of Stephen's life and ministry. Can there be any surprise that these believers changed their world? Could anyone doubt the reality and the validity of their faith? Should we expect that our service for Christ would cost us nothing?

### **DEACON SELECTION AND ROTATION**

As previously stated, Deacons emerge from a review and selection process involving fellow members and church leaders. He is then ordained after a confirming vote from the church.

Deacons serve for a period of three years and then are rotated off to "Inactive" status. If a deacon desires to continue to serve, he may choose to commit to another three year term. There are several reasons why this procedure is used in our Deacon ministry:

- It allows for a broader base of leadership, enabling more qualified men to serve.
- It enables qualified men in the church to become more quickly involved in the Deacon ministry.
- It provides a great resource for church leadership by cutting across the age

spectrum and thus allowing for representation from every group in the church.

- It maximizes the church resource and manpower by allowing for new ideas, motivation, and vision to be provided through new Deacons each year.
- It provides a guard against burnout and over commitment among our most qualified and dedicated church leaders.

## DEACON CLASSIFICATION

### ACTIVE

This includes all of those elected into office at the beginning of the church year and those who have remaining time for service in their term. Each Deacon serves for a three year period unless they are chosen to complete the service of another. Each of these men is expected to fulfill all of the functions of the Deacon ministry in the church.

### INACTIVE

This group includes all of those who have been ordained and have served in the FBC Roswell. It includes those who have rotated off of the current active status and those who have been unable to return to service because of illness or choice.

Your selection as a Deacon of the FBC Roswell is a privilege and a blessing from God. It is an affirmation of your example and Christian leadership - this, greater responsibility. Be attentive to the command that our Savior gave to His disciples, "Whoever desires to become great among you shall be your servant. And whoever of you desires to be first shall be slave of all. For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." (Mark 10:43-45) This is our Lord's challenge and call. The result will be a loving, caring, and giving fellowship that will point the world to our Savior, Jesus Christ.

## DEACON ORGANIZATION

The Deacon Officers are Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary. Each officer is charged with serving and leading the Deacon Body to fulfill the mission of the church in

- Discipleship/Spiritual Growth
- Servant Leadership
- Fellowship
- Encouragement.

The Chairman will coordinate the overall Deacon Ministry, and the Vice Chairman will assist the Chairman. The Secretary will support the Deacons with critical information necessary for the ministry.

## BIBLE FELLOWSHIP ASSIGNMENTS

Each year active deacons are assigned to a Bible Fellowship group. The purpose is to allow the deacon to assist with ministry as needed by the small group. This service can include assistance with benevolence, crisis, needs and prayer support. The deacon's presence and service is coordinated through the small group director. The Pastor of Community and Chairman, working with the Bible Fellowship directors, will make assignments each year (October 1 - September 30.)

## ACTIVE DEACONS RESPONSIBILITIES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE

1. Deacons set the example for the entire congregation as true disciples of Christ who seek the good of others before thinking of self. (1 Timothy 3:8, 13; James 4:8)
2. Deacons strive to be problem solvers. Deacons are always part of the solution, promoting unity in the body of Christ as FBC stays on mission for the glory of God. (1 Timothy 3:8; Matthew 5:8)
3. Deacons commit to pray daily for our pastors and our church in order that God's perfect plan will be accomplished and that Jesus Christ will be preeminent in every aspect of FBC. (1 Thessalonians 5:17; Colossians 4:2; Romans 12:12)
4. Deacons are faithful to our Lord, our families, and our church. Deacons stay on mission for Jesus and finish the race set before us in a way that pleases God. (1 Timothy 3:9, 11-12; 2 Timothy 4:7; Psalm 115:1)
5. Deacons faithfully tithe 10% of their total income to the ministry of FBC. (Malachi 3:10; James 1:5; 2 Corinthians 8-9)
6. Deacons are faithful in all respects to church membership through regular attendance at all major worship services and church-wide ministries. (1 Timothy 3:13)
7. Deacons are present at scheduled and called Deacon meetings unless providentially hindered. (Job 5:8; Matthew 5:37)
8. Deacons regularly visit FBC members who are in a hospital. (Acts 6:3, Matthew 25:43-44)
9. Deacons encourage new members and families to participate in a Bible Fellowship group and regular worship services.
10. Deacons are responsible for FBC's regular observance of the Lord's Supper, ensuring preparation of the elements, setting up of trays, and distribution of elements.