



Deacons and Dads

6/16/19

Vows for the New Deacon

- 1 Do you accept the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as originally given to be the inerrant word of God? Do you trust and submit to their authority and hold them to be necessary, sufficient and the only infallible rule of faith and practice?
- 2 Do you believe the fundamentals of the doctrine in *The Baptist Faith and Message* and *The Lausanne Covenant* and find them to be consistent with the scriptures?
- 3 Do you promise to continue to live and exemplify those qualities and practices required of deacons in 1st Timothy 3?
- 4 Do you promise to focus on the three priorities of loving God, loving one another and living the mission, and exemplify them to our congregation?
- 5 Do you promise to faithfully practice the means of grace as listed in our *How to Grow* guide?
- 6 Do you promise to hold your wife and family as a higher priority than your deacon ministry to this church and do you promise to continually consider your wife's counsel concerning this priority?
- 7 Do you promise to maintain a lifestyle of moral alertness and discretion in heart and practice?
- 8 Do you promise to promote both the purity and the unity of this church as well as the purity and the unity of the global body of Christ?
- 9 Do you promise to help our elders protect this church from false teaching, worldly enticements or anything which would do the church harm? And do you promise to support this church's practice of church discipline consistent with the procedure, spirit and examples in Matthew 18 and 1st Corinthians 5?
- 10 Do you promise to do all within your power to serve the needs of this congregation in such a way that the elders can focus on the ministry of the word, prayer and the other responsibilities to which elders are called?
- 11 Do you promise to receive elder leadership, work together with them in all things needed for the well-being of this church and to invite their help, where useful, in your ministry to this congregation?
- 12 Do you promise to love and serve this church family, exercising all the gifts which God has entrusted you?
- 13 Do you promise to fulfill your ministry with a servant's heart, esteeming the members of this church and their welfare above your own?
- 14 Do you promise to attempt to learn and minister to the physical, social, spiritual, intellectual, and emotional needs of the church through the Deacon Family Ministry Plan? Do you promise to:
 - a. Build mutually edifying relationships with each member of your group
 - b. Pray daily for each member of your group and call and visit as Jesus guides
 - c. Periodically contact each member of your group and ask how things are going and how you can pray for them

- d. Watch for each member of your group during church gatherings and contact members as appropriate
 - e. Visit and minister to each member of your group in time of need and
 - f. Coordinate ministry efforts with the elders?
- 15 Do you promise to help your fellow deacons fulfill their calling?
 - 16 Do you promise to practice the ministry of mutual submission and edification with your fellow deacons in this church?
 - 17 Do you promise to help mentor deacon candidates?
 - 18 Do you promise that if at any time you find your beliefs or practices to be out of accord with these vows you will, on your own initiative, make known to the deacons of this church the change which has taken place?

Vows for the Congregation

- 1 Do you receive this man as your deacon and as a member of the deacon team?
- 2 Do you promise to recognize him as God's provision for our corporate and individual wellbeing and growth?
- 3 Do you promise to pray for him and minister to him as Christ guides you?
- 4 Do you promise to consider well the needs of his wife and family?
- 5 Do you promise to accept and promote his practice of moral carefulness?
- 6 Do you promise to follow the example of this deacon in Christlike servanthood and serve with him to meet the needs of this congregation and community?
- 7 Do you promise to encourage him and support him in whatever ways may seem helpful?

Vows for the Fellow Deacons

Accompanying the vows you made as members of this congregation,

- 1 Do you promise to receive this man as your fellow deacon and member with equal authority and responsibility on your deacon team?
- 2 Do you promise to pray for him and with him?
- 3 Do you promise to practice the ministry of mutual service, submission, correction and edification with this fellow deacon?
- 4 Do you promise to help him minister well to the members entrusted to him with the Deacon Family Ministry Plan?
- 5 Do you promise to work together as equal partners in serving this church?
- 6 Do you promise to promote his training and development and will you do all within your power to help him fulfill his deacon vows?

Vows for the Elders

Accompanying the vows you made as members of this congregation,

- 1 Do you promise to receive and recognize this deacon as God's provision to allow you to focus on the ministry of the Word, prayer and the other responsibilities of elders?
- 2 Do you promise to pray for him?
- 3 Do you promise to serve with him, support him and encourage him regarding the fulness of God's call upon his life?
- 4 Do you promise to help him minister well to the members entrusted to him with the Deacon Family Ministry Plan?
- 5 Do you promise to train and equip this deacon in ministry and lifestyle by example and word?

The Roles of Deacons

1. Exemplify 1 Timothy 3:8-13
2. Minister through *The Deacon Family Ministry Plan*
 - a. Build mutually edifying relationships with each member of your group.
 - b. Pray daily for each member of your group. Call and visit as Jesus guides.
 - c. Periodically contact each member of your group. Ask how things are going and how you can pray for them.
 - d. Watch for each member of your group during church gatherings and contact members as appropriate. Train helpers to cover for you when you can't make a gathering and to help you when you can.
 - e. Visit and minister to each member of your group in time of need.
 - f. Coordinate ministry efforts with the elders, the staff, and the Membership Services team
3. Help steward the benevolence fund
4. Help maintain the facilities
5. Prepare and serve the Lord's Supper.
6. Grow the church in a ministry lifestyle through example and servant-leadership
7. Mentor perspective deacons

Note: The Roles of Elders Pray, teach, lead, oversee, protect, serve

The Qualifications of Deacons

1 Timothy 3:7 Deacons likewise *must be*

men of dignity,

not double-tongued,

or addicted to much wine

or fond of sordid gain,

⁹but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.

¹⁰And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are **beyond reproach.**

¹¹Women *must* likewise *be*

dignified,

not malicious gossips,

but temperate,

faithful in all things.

¹²Let deacons be **husbands of *only one wife***

and good managers of *their* children and their own households.

¹³For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

Probably applicable: **Acts 6:3** "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of **good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom**, whom we may put in charge of this task. (Note: The noun "deacon" is not mentioned in this passage but it's possible these were the first deacons)