

Lifepoint Church Deacon Nomination

In following the Church approved Lifepoint Constitution and By-Laws Lifepoint Church shall select from its membership qualified Deacons. The process and selection shall be as follows:

Description

The New Testament speaks of the specific office of deacon. The word deacon (gk: diákonos) denotes a helper or servant who serves (gk: diakonéo). Before a man may be appointed as deacon, he must be tested for the qualifications found in I Timothy 3:8-13. The tasks of a deacon are primarily that of meeting the physical and material needs of individual believers and the congregation as a whole. If the deacon serves faithfully, he “obtains for himself a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus” (I Timothy 3:13).

Church Qualifications

For a person to be eligible for position of Deacon at Lifepoint Church, he must be a male and meet Biblical qualifications. The deacons of this body shall be elected by the Church upon the basis of qualifications set forth in I Timothy 3 and Acts 6, and the following requirements:

A deacon shall be a man thirty years (30) of age or older, never having been divorced, a member of the Church for at least one year, and must have proven himself in faithfulness to Christ and the Church and must be willing to serve.

I. The New Testament origin and qualifications of Deacons.

- Their origin. (Acts 6:1-4)
- Their qualifications. (I Timothy 3:8-13)

- 1. Men of dignity.** σεμνός semnos /sem-nos- to be revered for character, grave, serious, honorable (opposite of flippant)
- 2. Not double tongued.** δίλογος dilogos /dil-og-os- saying one thing with one person another with another (with the intent to deceive)
- 3. Not given to much wine.** προσέχω prosecho /pros-ekh-o- to give heed, to attach oneself to, to heed, to be addicted. Contrary to filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)
- 4. Not fond of sordid gain.** αἰσχροκερδής aischrokerdes/ ahee-skhrok-er-dace- free from the love of money, greedy or filthy lucre
- 5. Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.** ἔχω echo /ekh-o- to adhere, to cling, to lay hold of. “Having a deep conviction (implies you know and believe TRUTH) of your faith, rooted in your heart, practiced through deeds.”
- 6. Tested men.** δοκιμάζω, δοκιμασία dokimazo dok-im-ad-zo- to test, examine, to prove, to scrutinize, to deem worthy, to test as a metal
- 7. They are beyond reproach.** anegkletos /an-eng-klay-tos - blameless, unaccused, unreprieveable
- 8. The husbands of one wife.** μίας /γυναίκος/άνδρες (mias gunaikas andras) “One woman's Husband”

Not referring to polygamy.

Seen in light of “One Flesh” concept (Gen 2:24/Matthew 19:6, Mark 10:9, Malachi 2:16)

Seen in light of Jewish Picture of “Covenant” Ex. 20 and Marriage. (Unbreakable to God)

Seen in light of OT pictures of Christ. (Ex 17:6; Num 20:8-13)

Seen in light of God’s Marital Relationship to His Church. (Ephesians 5:22-33)

- 9. Must manage well their children and home.** προϊστημι proistemi /pro-is-tay-mee- to maintain, preside over, protector, guardian, to give aid (provider, protector, priest)

II. The implications concerning the qualifications and deacon selection at Lifepoint Church.

The selection process should not be limited to a few, but ALL the qualifications mentioned in the text and our By-laws and constitution (Gal 5:22-25).

Candidates will be **tested** from: pastoral staff and other faithful deacons, **proving** their ability to serve.

We should always take the highest view of Text. And never allow precedence change our commitment to Truth. This is our major reason for holding fast to the view of **one woman for a lifetime**.

The identification of “Saints” in the NT should remind us that no born again person is second class, in any circumstance or past. Therefore, if divorce prevents someone from serving as a “Deacon”,

this has no bearing on his value in the life of the Church or other positions of leadership and serving.

Divorce does not prevent or limit any man from serving, leading, teaching, evangelizing; for the glory of God! Lifepoint Church recognizes and values the testimony of God's grace.

Divorced men need not dwell on the past. But recognize divorce for what it is, love the wife you have (like Christ loved the Church), change the destiny of children through your example.

III. The function of Deacons in the New Testament.

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word diakonos. It usually has the general meaning, "servant" Used in this form 31 times in the NT. (1-attendants, 3 -deacons, 1- minister, 6- ministers, 12- servant, 8- servant)

For example:

"The *servants* at the wedding who carried the water containers." His mother said to the *servants*, "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:5, 9

Matthew 20:26 "Whoever would be great among you must be your *servant*."

Mark 10:43 "But it shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant,"

Characteristics of Biblical Servant-hood:

Servant Leaders are humble.

Servant Leaders do not seek a position of service.

Servant Leaders recognize cost of meeting the needs of others. and will sacrifice to meet those needs.

Conclusion

We never find New Testament Deacons functioning as rulers or governors in the Church. They are always identified as servants bent on meeting the needs of the needy for the glory of God!

Number and Term of Service

The Deacon Ministry Team shall consist of the number of active Deacons to be determined by The Deacon Ministry Team, with assistance of the Senior Pastor, as Church needs require. The Deacons shall serve on a 3-year rotation basis. Requiring one-third of the number of Deacons to expire annually.

Selection

Selection will be determined and performed by the Deacon Selection Team and Senior Pastor. A list of nominees will be presented and interviewed by the Deacon Selection Team. The names will be presented to the Church for affirmation at a regular worship service of the Church.

Responsibilities

Deacons will be required to enter into a covenant agreement to perform the following duties:

- Serve with the Senior Pastor and staff in performing ministry tasks;
- Organize and participate in SON Deacon Outreach.
- Care for Church members and other persons in the community; through monthly widow ministry, divorce support ministry, adoption ministry, and weekly rotating hospital ministry.
- Lead the Church to engage in the five (5) purposes of Lifepoint Church; Worship, Connect, Journey, Serve, and GO.

Having read and agree with the following Deacon Nomination and process and selection, members of Lifepoint Church are eligible to nominate two men who meet the qualifications and have agreed to be considered as a Deacon.

Recognize all nominations will be reviewed and the Deacon Selection Team will identify which candidates will be interviewed and selected. There will be many qualified men who will not serve since we will only be selecting a few men. Realize that a 1/3 will rotate off annually and give other men the opportunity to serve in this capacity.

Drop this form in the offering boxes located in the back of the Sanctuary.

Deacon Nominees:

1. _____

2. _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

No Nominations will be reviewed without the signature of the nominating person.