

Elders are responsible for sound teaching and discipline within the church and for the spiritual well being of the congregation. The elders are to make sure that members are nurtured through Scripture, worship, the sacraments, and prayer. The office of the elder is one of servanthood, representing Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. Elders are chosen members of spiritual discernment, exemplary life, charitable spirit, and wisdom grounded in God's Word.

They have oversight over the conduct of the members of the congregation and seek to bring that conduct into conformity with the Word of God, thereby empowering all members to live out their Christian vocation in the world. Elders exercise an oversight over the conduct of one another, and of the deacons, and of the minister(s). They make certain that what is preached and taught by the minister(s) is in accord with the Holy Scripture. They assist the minister(s) with their good counsel and in the task of visitation. They seek to guard the sacraments of the church from being profaned. The Elders serve Church through:

- Prayer
- Discerning God's will and providing Vision.
- Worship, Word & Sacraments
- Teaching/Discipleship
- Spiritual Care and Formation of members

Biblical Qualifications for Elders (1 Timothy 3:1-7)

- "Above Reproach" - Does this person seek to model Christ in their life?
- "Husband of one wife" – Not a marriage requirement, but a test of faithfulness. Is this person holy and faithful in their relationship of marriage or singleness?
- "Temperate/Self-Control" - Does this person exhibit self-control and temperance/sobriety?
- "Respectable" – is this person well behaved and worthy of respect?
- "Hospitable" - Does he/she share their home with others to minister to their needs?
- "Able to teach" – Is this person able to communicate the truths of God's Word to others?
- "Not given to drunkenness" Is this person free from any abuse that might take control of his/her life or offend another believer?
- "Gentle" - Is he/she physically, emotionally or verbally abusive to anyone? Does this person display the Fruit of patience in times of conflicting view points?
- "Not Quarrelsome" - Does this person handle conflict without being defensive? Is he/she able to set aside personal agenda and seek unity?
- "Not lover of money" - Is he/she honorable in business practices? Does he/she a responsible steward?
- "Manages household well" - Does his/her wife/husband show that person respect as a spiritual leader? Are his/her children under control? Do they admire this person and submit to their leadership? Is this person totally devoted to his/her spouse?
- "Not a recent convert" – Is this person spiritual mature?
- "Good reputation with outsiders" – Does this person live a life of integrity that represents well the Church of Christ in the world?

The Greek word in the Bible for deacon, *diakonos*, means servant. Jesus provided the ultimate role model for servanthood. Throughout his ministry, he reminded his followers in word and deed that he was among them as one who serves.

The deacons serve those in distress and need. The deacons minister to the sick, the poor, the hurt, and the helpless, aid the victims of the world's abuse, and express the social concerns of the church. They oversee and carry out their work as those concerned with the redemption of humankind. Their focus is turned toward service and ministry both to the world and in the church by...

- Caring for the physical needs of the Church.
- Teaching responsible stewardship.
- Special individual and family concerns
- Mission involvement
- Disaster response and volunteer service opportunities
- Ministry of mercy and justice

The office of the deacon is one of servanthood and service representing Christ through the action of the Holy Spirit. In the local church deacons are chosen members of spiritual commitment, exemplary life, compassionate spirit, and sound judgment, who are set apart for a ministry of mercy, service, and outreach.

Biblical Qualifications for Deacons (1 Timothy 3:8-13)

- “worthy of respect” – Is this person honorable and of good character?
- “sincere” – Not two-faced or double-tongued
- “not indulging in much wine” - Is he/she free from any abuse that might take control of his/her life or offend a weaker believer?
- “not pursuing dishonest gain”: Is he/she overly focused on money? Is this person a good steward in both receiving and distributing gifts?
- “Holding to the “deep truths of the faith with clear conscience” - Does he/she hold to sound doctrine?
- “Tested” – Has this person exhibited a heartfelt desire to serve Christ over an extended period of time? Can you give testimony to this person's ability to serve as Deacon?
- Healthy Household (3:11-12) – Do they represent and are they represented by a household that is in good order and healthy serving as a solid base for this person's ministry? Is this person totally devoted to his/her family? Does his/her wife/husband show that person respect as a spiritual leader? Are his/her children under control? Do they admire this person and submit to their leadership?