

# Deacon Ministry in the English Congregation

Caring and support is an important part of what it means to be a Community in Christ. Deacons are those who are called clearly to work alongside the pastoral leadership in caring for the church.

In our commitment to living out the VCBC mission and core values, we will be having Deacons with in the English Congregation. These are not super-saints, but brothers and sisters who have demonstrated spiritual maturity, concern for the church and the spiritual growth of its members, and are willing to walk alongside of their brothers and sisters.

The Apostle Paul gave this description of deacons:

*“Deacons likewise must be serious, not double-tongued, not indulging in much wine, not greedy for money; they must hold fast to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them first be tested; then, if they prove themselves blameless, let them serve as deacons. Women likewise must be serious, not slanderers, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be married only once, and let them manage their children and their households well; for those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*

— 1 Timothy 3:8-13; cf. Acts 20:28

## **The process of Deacon selection is as follows:**

1. Each Congregation member is to read this insert, pray over the information, and then suggest names of those he/she feels are called to the Deacon Ministry.
2. The names will be reviewed by the Pastoral Team and a sub-committee of the ECLT.
3. Some will be approached and asked to pray about serving in this role.
4. A list of Deacon candidates will then be shared with the congregation for further input.
5. In the end, 10-12 brothers and sisters will be affirmed to serve as our Deacons. Training will be provided for them.

## **Qualities**

(from the above Scriptures)

### *Spiritually*

A Deacon is not a recent convert, not liable to fall, able to teach others, loyal to biblical truth, willing to care, has a proven spiritual standing, possesses a servant attitude.

### *Personally*

He/she is a person with integrity, self-discipline, gentle- not argumentative, good financial stewardship, encouraging.

### *Socially*

He/she is hospitable, faithful in marriage (if married), competent as a parent (if there are children), respected by non-Christians.

## **Requirements**

There is no job description given in the New Testament for those called to be Deacons. The impression given is that Deacons work alongside other leaders in the caring of the church, helping and taking responsibility with them.

The following basic requirements should be taken seriously:

- Regular worship attendance
- Sensitivity to the spiritual needs of the congregation
- Commitment to working as part of a supportive group
- A financially contributing member
- Regular prayer for the church members, other church officers and pastors
- All service should be done in a spirit of God's love.
- Continual nurturing of the fellowship of the church
- Willingness to continue to learn about the role of the Deacon, Christian faith and service

## **Ministry involves:**

### **Caring for the church by**

- a. Being involved in pastoral care
- b. Welcoming visitors to church
- c. Getting to know and love the members of the church and extending hospitality to them
- d. Visiting those applying for membership
- e. Praying regularly for the church.

### **Leading in the church by**

- a. Example
- b. Participating in Deacons' meetings
- c. Taking a lead in the more practical aspects of the day to day running of the church
- d. Being available and approachable to discuss new ideas, visions, directions, concerns of members etc.
- e. Serving at the Lord's Table
- f. Contributing to church meetings
- g. Using whatever gifts they have been given for the building up of the people of God

**Caring for the pastors by**

- a. Giving encouragement
- b. Committed to prayer
- c. Providing opportunities for study
- d. Ensuring an adequate salary
- e. Providing administrative assistance and other support
- f. Ensuring needed time off
- g. Being a sounding board for ideas
- h. Providing constructive feedback
- i. Keeping him or her accountable.

If you have any questions, please approach the pastoral staff.