DEACON EXAMINATION—stage one

# INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in serving as a deacon at First Christian Church. These materials are designed to assist you, the elders and the congregation in evaluating you as a candidate for the office of deacon. This document provides some preliminary discussion about the definition, responsibilities and qualifications of a deacon, followed by a set of questions from which we would appreciate your written response. This is the first stage of the process. The second stage consists of an oral interview based on your written response to the questions below as well as the qualifications of deacons as articulated in Scripture. You will be given a list of those questions prior to your interview.

Please begin by reading the section below on the definition, responsibilities and qualifications for deacons. Next, please prayerfully complete the attached examination questions and return them to an elder. We appreciate typed answers, but will accept a hand-written response if typing is not an option.[[1]](#footnote-1)

***Please note:* Your answers will be kept confidential by the elders and deacons. Should you prefer to discuss a question in person, please indicate that in your response. After your completed questions are received, you will be contacted to schedule a meeting with a team of elders.**

# DEACONS: DEFINITION, RESPONSIBILITIES AND QUALIFICATIONS

**Definition** Deaconsat First Christian Church are servant-leaders recognized for their service and character and set apart to wisely carry out particular ministries for the good of the body. As demonstrated in Acts 6:1-6, deacons serve several purposes. First, deacons fulfill particular physical needs of the church by ensuring wise use of available ministry resources. Second, deaconspromote unity within the church by serving impartially. And third, deacons support the ministry of the Word by freeing up others for preaching, teaching, and prayer.

**Responsibilities**

Deacons are responsible for carrying out the particular ministry or service to which they have been assigned by wisely administrating the relevant allocated budget, recruiting and organizing and training sufficient volunteer members to carry out the particular ministry and service activities, following applicable church policies and procedures, requesting guidance from elders as necessary for situations not covered by existing church policies, recommending updates and revisions to existing church policies, and providing updates and reports to the elders and congregation as requested.

Please refer to the deaconposition descriptions for specific details about your prospective area of service.

**Minimum Qualifications.** Minimum deacon qualifications are found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. The example of Acts 6:1-6 provides additional qualities to look for in deacons.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Children: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Phones: □ Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ □ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (*check preferred)*

How long have you been a member of First Christian Church?

How long do you plan to be an active part of First Christian Church?

Please check one of the following:

* I am interested in serving as a deacon at First Christian Church, have completed the following questions, and agree to have them reviewed by the elders and deacons.
* I am not interested in serving as a deacon at this time. Thank you for your consideration.

**SignatureDate**

# Stage One: Examination Questions for Deacon Candidates

1 Timothy 3:10 tells us that deacons “must be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.” The following questions have been developed to help us test potential deaconcandidates.

We do not believe that “blameless” in 1 Timothy 3:10 means that you must be sinless or “practically perfect in every way.” If it did, then no one could be a deacon! “Blameless” simply means that you meet the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. Confessing sin, past or present, does not necessarily disqualify you from serving as a deacon. We are not looking for specific right or wrong answers, and we are not “grading” your answers.

If you serve well as a deacon, you gain “a good standing” and “great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.” However, if you become a deacon and do not serve well or turn out to have been unqualified, this can be harmful to the church and even more to you. It is in your best interest to be open and honest when answering these questions. The elders are more interested in caring for you personally than they are in examining you as a deacon.

After reflection on the Scriptures (Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13), prayer and self-examination, and discussion with your spouse (if married), please answer the following questions:

## **GOSPEL KNOWLEDGE**

1Timothy 3:9 says that deaconsmust “hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.” Teaching and preaching isn’t part of the responsibility of a deacon, but a deacon does need to have a clear understanding of the gospel and what FCC recognizes as the essentials of the Christian faith.

1. Please recount how you came to be a Christian, and where you were baptized:
2. Please briefly summarize the Gospel:
3. Read through FCC’s statement of faith. Do you have any disagreements with the church’s statement of faith or constitution/bylaws? Do you have any questions about anything in the statement of faith?

## **GOSPEL CHARACTER**

Having reflected on the biblical qualifications for deacons/deaconesses found in 1Timothy 3:8-13, assess how your heart and life compare to these qualifications.

1. **Purity:** 
   1. Are you leading a sexually pure life?
   2. What do you consider a sexually pure life to look like?
   3. Are there any sinful struggles overwhelming you right now in your individual life that would hinder you from serving at present or bring dishonor to the office of deacon and, most importantly, the Gospel?
   4. Are you involved in any unresolved conflicts, whether within First Christian Church or with those outside FCC? Are you aware of any accusations against you that have yet to be addressed?
2. **Possessions*:*** 
   1. Do you think a deacon should give significantly to support the budget of the local church?
   2. Are you giving in proportion to how the Lord has blessed you financially? If not, are you moving toward that standard?
3. **Personal walk**:
   1. Describe your prayer and devotional life. Has God been real to you in prayer of late?
   2. Is anything hindering your communion with God? Are you making progress against it?

## **GOSPEL SERVICE**

1. Tell us how you have been involved in ministry in the past, either in this church or another one. What did this service involve?
2. How do your gifts, abilities, interests fit this office?
3. Are you supportive of the elders’ leadership and willing to serve under their direction?

1. An electronic copy will be available on the church website: www.1christianchurch.org [↑](#footnote-ref-1)