DEACON EXAMINATIOn—stage two

# INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for taking the time to complete the written portion of the questionnaire from Stage One. The questions that follow in Stage Two emerge from the qualifications for deacons as specified in 1 Timothy 3. The questions below are ones that may be presented to you in the oral interview.

# questions for deacon candidates

**Dignified:** The office of deacon is one of the two Biblical offices in the church. An “undignified” deacon may reflect poorly on the office of deacon, the church, and the Gospel.

* 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/deaconess and, most importantly, the Gospel?
* 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?

**Not Double-tongued, Not Slanderers:** Unfortunately, many churches deal with gossip and grumbling, which harms the unity of the church and our witness before the world. Being a deacon/deaconess can make your words seem “official” and magnify the harm caused by gossip and grumbling.

* How is your control of your tongue?
* Do you participate in gossip?
* What should you do if you have a conflict or disagreement with someone in the church? Whom should you speak with first?
* How would you handle a disagreement with the elders at FCC? Would you be able to affirm their leadership, even while working through conflict?

**Not Addicted to Much Wine:**  Like any Christian, a deacon/deaconess should be influenced and guided by the Word of God and the Holy Spirit, not by wine or any other drug (see Ephesians 5:18).

* Do you practice addictive or immoderate use of alcoholic beverages?
* Have you used illegal or prescription drugs other than as required for medical reasons?

**Not Greedy for Dishonest Gain:**  A deacon/deaconess acts as a representative of the church with regard to the assigned ministry budget. If the church is to act with financial integrity, we must make sure our deacons/deaconesses have demonstrated financial integrity. As a deacon/deaconess, you cannot serve both God and money.

* Are you learning to be content with God’s provision in your life, whether great or small?
* Do you conduct your personal finances with integrity? (For example, are you honest when filing your taxes?)
* How would you react if the church considered or approved a reduction in your ministry budget?

**Sober-minded:** It takes a clear head to stay focused on seeking the good of the church as defined in God’s Word. Serving the church is highly rewarding, but not always easy. It is always possible to be overwhelmed by frustration or caught up in the latest trend, and lose sight of what we are working for.

* Can you stay focused under pressure?
* How do you react to criticism, constructive or otherwise?
* Describe your decision making process. How would you evaluate new ministry ideas or suggestions?

**One-woman-man (or vice versa):** “One-woman man” is a more literal translation of 1 Timothy 3:12. It does not mean that a deacon/deaconess must only have had one marriage in his/her lifetime, but that, if married, a deacon must be faithful to his wife and a deaconess to her husband.

* Questions for married candidates:
  + How is your marriage?
  + How have you grown as a result of being married?
  + What does your spouse think of the decision to serve as a deacon?
  + How might serving as a deacon/deaconess impact your marriage?
* For single candidates:
  + How are you trusting and submitting to God’s will in your singleness?
* For married or single candidates: Being divorced does not automatically disqualify you from serving as a deacon. But, since deacons may experience more scrutiny from the congregation, it is helpful for the elders to know your history in this area. This is as much to protect and care for you as it is to test you as a deacon candidate. Have you ever been divorced?

**Managing children well:** If you have children, you already have a ministry responsibility in your own home. How you are doing in that ministry is an indicator of how you will serve as a deacon/deaconess. The following questions are for parents only:

* If you are a parent, how is your relationship with your children?
* Are they learning to obey you? To obey God?
* Are you showing them grace?
* How have you grown as a result of being a parent?

## **GOSPEL SERVICE**

1. Are you supportive of the elders’ leadership and willing to serve under their direction?
2. What strengths and weaknesses do you bring to this deacon/deaconess position?
3. How does this deacon/deaconess position contribute to the health of the church?
4. How will your service contribute to and protect the health of the body?
5. Describe your “dream” ministry position? What would you do with this deacon position if you had unlimited resources?
6. What gives you the most joy in serving? The most grief?