

Hardy Street Baptist Church
1508 Hardy Street Hattiesburg, MS 39401
601.544.1794



June 15, 2017

Dear Hardy Street Members,

One of the great responsibilities (and privileges) that you have as a member of our church is to nominate and select deacons to serve the Body. I have enclosed with this letter the process timeline so that you are aware of the steps we take to select deacons. I have also included two documents: "*Suggestions for Deacons*" and the "*H.S.B.C. Deacon Policy*". These will hopefully prepare you to engage in this process.

The demands for Deacon ministry at H.S.B.C. are rising and by attrition, our number of deacons has diminished. Therefore, on Sunday, September 10, we will elect seven new deacons to serve for a three-year term, beginning in January. Van Craft, Van Halfacre, and Richard McVeigh have served faithfully in this position for the past three years and will complete their terms in December. Serving as a deacon is a very humbling position and not one to be taken lightly. The Bible explains the expectations and responsibilities of a deacon. I urge you to invest time reading 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3-5 and the enclosed information and prayerfully considering men that you would suggest for consideration.

In short, the process of electing deacons at H.S.B.C. begins by receiving names for consideration from the membership. The Deacon Nomination Team, comprised of members of the church, prayerfully review the nominations, request completed assessments, and conduct interviews to insure that the individuals meet the qualifications for the position of deacon. A final list of names is forwarded to the Church Deacons with their recommendations.

The deacon body, after prayerful consideration, will submit candidates for the deacon positions to the church body to be voted upon in September. Beginning Sunday, June 25, we will receive names for consideration. If you know of someone who you believe meets the scriptural qualifications for deacon, please fill out the enclosed "*Deacon Suggestion*" form and return it to the church office at 1508 Hardy Street. All names must be received by Sunday, July 16. You may copy the form and turn in as many names as you like. The Deacon Nominating Committee appreciates your thoughtful consideration and suggestions for deacons.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott Hanberry', written in a cursive style.

Dr. Scott Hanberry, Pastor
Hardy Street Baptist Church

KNOWING. GROWING. GOING.

Deacon Selection Process Timeline

The deacon selection guidelines are established in our Constitution and By-laws. Below you will find this year's timeline for the process:

- **June 14:** Pastor Scott Hanberry will prepare letter to Hardy Street membership. Enclosures will include "*Suggestions for Deacons*", the "*H.S.B.C. Deacon Policy*", and "*Biblical Deacon Qualifications*".
 - **June 25 - July 16 :** Suggestions for Deacon from the membership.
 - **July 19:** Pastoral Team and Deacon Nominating Committee review suggestions for deacons from the membership.
 - **Beginning July 20:** Deliver / Hand out applications / packets to those suggested for deacons that meet the established guidelines.
 - **August 13** Deadline for returning Deacon Applications.
 - **August 16:** Deacon Nomination Committee Meeting at 7:00 p.m. in the Conference Room to review applications / contact deacon candidates.
 - **August 20:** Deacon Interviews begin (Conference Room) Sunday afternoon
 - **August 27:** Deacon Interviews (if necessary) - Conference Room, 7:00 p.m.
- ** As a part of the on-going process... On the 1st Sunday in October, the church will select the Deacon Nominating Committee for the upcoming year following the process delineated in the By-Laws of H.S.B.C.*
- **September 10:** Church vote (following the morning service)
 - **October 15:** Deacon Ordination Service (if necessary)

SUGGESTIONS FOR DEACONS

Each year Deacons are set apart for service to and through our church. Deacons are selected to serve for a three-year term beginning January 1. You are encouraged to have a part in this process by suggesting a person or persons you believe would serve effectively as a Deacon. Use the enclosed form, or you can obtain additional copies of the form in the church office, or you can submit names by visiting the church's website at www.hardysbc.net/nominate. In thinking about who to suggest, please consider the following:

- Does this person have the qualifications as set forth in Scripture and in the Church Bylaws?
- Does this person provide a positive example in attitude, actions, and service both to church members and to those outside the church?
- Only Biblical and spiritual qualifications should be the reason a man is nominated as a deacon. While many other factors can be and usually are involved in the nomination process such as friendships, personal agendas, family, prejudices, and many others. Our prayer and desire is that everyone making a nomination does so under the leadership of the Holy Spirit. The Lord places upon the church the responsibility of knowing His will. It is the Lord's will that only men who meet the Biblical and spiritual qualifications be elected as deacons, not simply those who receive the highest number of nominations. Please make this a matter of solemn prayer before submitting any names. Thank you.

NOTE: Deacons presently serving are not eligible for election this year.

Article from Church By-laws

Deacons

1. Number of active Deacons: The active Deacon body shall consist of ten active deacons for the first 200 active members, plus one for each fifty members (or portion thereof), with a minimum of twelve active deacons serving each year on the Deacon body.

2. Terms of Service: Active Deacons shall be elected to serve on a rotating basis for the calendar year with a full term of office being three years and with the term of office for one-third of the Active Deacons expiring each year. No Deacon who has served a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election until one year has lapsed. Those who have been elected to fill an unexpired term of one year or less shall be eligible for re-election to a full term of three years.

3. Qualifications: A member should meet the Biblical requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3-5 before being ordained or becoming an active member of the Deacon body. A Deacon shall demonstrate an exemplary Christian testimony in private, family, and public life as well as be a committed Christian leader and partner of the Pastor. He should likewise be a supporter and promoter of the Church's beliefs, practices, programs, and ministries with his tithes, time, and talents.

Other Qualifications:

- a. A Deacon shall be at least 21 years of age and be characterized as spiritually mature;
- b. A Deacon shall have been an active member of a Baptist church for the immediate preceding five years;
- c. If already ordained, a Deacon must have been a member of this Church for the immediate preceding one year;
- d. If to be ordained, a candidate must have been a member of this Church for the immediate preceding three years;
- e. No current Pastor or staff member shall be eligible to serve as an active Deacon.



HARDY STREET

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Deacon Suggestion Form

I would like to suggest the following person(s) for consideration as deacon:

Your Name (print) _____ Your Signature _____