



Diaconate Ministry

Overview

God's design for diaconate ministry is for qualified, recognized, and gifted individuals to serve in significant areas of responsibility with a view to building up a particular local church. At Metro Life Church, we believe that as deacons and deaconesses oversee particular areas of service and ministry (e.g. Media Ministry or Children's Ministry) with the church this will in turn free the elders to provide spiritual oversight to the church. Potential deacons and deaconesses are recommended by the congregation or the elders and will be recognized and appointed by the elders for a one-year period of service.

Why diaconate ministry?

The word "deacon" comes from the Greek word, "*diakonos*" which means "one who serves." It is used throughout the New Testament to speak of those serving in an official and unofficial capacity. The unofficial use is seen in statements like that of Jesus when he said, "*whoever would be great among you must be your servant*" (Matt. 20:26). All Christians are called to be servants of God and of one another. The word is also used to speak of a recognized role of servant in the church (1 Tim. 3:8; Phil. 1:1). It's in this way that many Christians will not only serve in a general capacity but also in the diaconate ministry of a local church. Because the role by its very nature is that of service, it is not a governing role in the church. The governance of the church is the responsibility of the elders (1 Tim. 3:5; Heb. 13:17).

Who can serve in diaconate ministry?

Scripture provides us with qualifications for, and examples of, those who serve in diaconate ministry. It is a ministry open to both men and women whose lives reflect the qualifications found in 1 Timothy 3:8-13. For the sake of clarity "deacon" refers to men and "deaconess" refers to women who are serving in diaconate ministry. These different terms do not signal any distinction in their function.

What do deacons and deaconesses do?

Acts 6:1-7 is the primary passage for understanding what deacons and deaconesses do. In this case, deacons were appointed in response to a need in the congregation that could have fallen to the apostles (church leaders) but should not have. Therefore, they attend to many areas of service in the church. In their service of the church, deacons and deaconesses compose serving schedules, direct activities, and communicate specific needs within their ministry to the congregation. At their discretion, they gather volunteers in support of their work.

The current areas for diaconate ministry include: finance advisory committee, home group leaders, hospitality, children's ministry, member care (hospital visitation, births, deaths, counseling) mercy ministry, media, community outreach, building administration, event planning, Sunday administration, TRA/Sports. These are not exhaustive categories, but presently recognized areas of need.

How does someone become a deacon or deaconess?

Diaconate ministry starts with a need in this local church. Anyone in the congregation or among the eldership can identify a need and bring it to the attention of the elders. Perhaps the one bringing the need may also have the desire to serve as a deacon or deaconess to help meet that need. It is the responsibility of the elders to publically recognize and appoint the deacon or deaconess for service.



Diaconate Recommendation Form

God's design for diaconate ministry is for members to recommend fellow-members who are qualified and gifted individuals to serve in significant areas of responsibility with a view to building up a particular local church. To serve as a deacon or deaconess:

- The individual must meet the qualifications of 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
- The individual must be member in good standing. Good standing is defined in our church membership agreement as consistent involvement in the Sunday service, consistent involvement in a home group and regular giving.
- Individual is willing to be considered for diaconate ministry.

If these criteria have been satisfied, please fill out the form and turn it in to the church office at your convenience.

Your Information

Your Name:

Today's date:

Your Phone number:

Your E-mail address:

Information of Individual Being Recommended

Individual's Name:

Area(s) of Service:

Recommendation

Why do you think this person is suited for this particular area of service?

In your estimation, does the person qualify for diaconate ministry according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13? How so?