The Office of Deacon

# Grant Street Baptist Church

Wednesday, September 1, 2021

1. The Secular View

Merriam-Webster:

dea·​con |  \ ˈdē-kən

**:**a subordinate officer in a Christian church: such as

* one of the laymen elected by a church with congregational polity to serve in worship, in pastoral care, and on administrative committees

2. The Congregational View

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS, October 16, 2019:

* Article II – Statement / Articles of Faith, pg. 2
  + “This Church subscribes to the Doctrinal Statement of “The Baptist Faith and Message” as adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention in 2000

BAPTIST FAITH AND MESSAGE, 2000 edition:

* VI. The Church
  + A New Testament church of the Lord Jesus Christ is an autonomous local congregation of baptized believers
    - Autonomous = having the freedom to govern itself or control its own affairs
  + Its scriptural officers are pastors and deacons. While both men and women are gifted for service in the church, the office of pastor is limited to men as qualified by Scripture.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS, October 16, 2019:

* Article III – Membership, Section 6 – Privileges, pg. 3
  + In considering the privileges involved, active members, in good standing, who are at least 16 years of age, and have been members in good standing for a minimum of 90 days may act and vote in the business meetings and transactions of the church.
* Article III – Membership, Section 16 – Inactive, pg. 4-5
  + Any member who has demonstrated a lack of faithfulness in attending the regular service of the church; who has not given regularly and systematically; and who has not shared in the organized work of this church, for a period of three months, except for being providentially hindered from doing so, shall be removed from the Active Church Roll, and may no longer serve as a Deacon, Officer, Staff member, Trustee, Teacher or member of a Committee.
* Article IV – Government Of The Church, Section 7 – Deacon, pg. 8
  + Deacons meetings may be held as often as needed, and may be called by the Pastor or the Chairman of the Deacons.
* Article VII – Officers/Staff/Trustees/Council, Section 1 – Ordained Officers, pg. 9
  + The church shall have two types of Ordained Officers; Pastor/Associate Pastor and Deacon.
* Article VIII – Election And Appointments, Section 3 – Deacon, pg. 10
  + Candidates for the office of Deacon shall come by recommendation from the church body, the Active Deacons, and the Pastor/s. The church shall determine the number of Active Deacons that will serve at any given time.
* Article IX – Duties And Responsibilities, Section 3 – Deacon, pg. 12
  + Deacons are to be servants of God and the church. They shall be zealous to guard and promote the unity of the spirit within the church, in the bonds of peace, service and Christian love. Along with Pastor, they are to consider and formulate plans for the constant effort and progress of the church in all things pertaining to the saving of souls; the development of Christians and the extension and growth of the Kingdom of God. They shall also assist the Pastor in administering the Lord’s Supper.

3. The Scriptural View

Acts 6:3, 6

**3**Brothers and sisters, select from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and wisdom, whom we can appoint to this duty.

**6**They had them stand before the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them.

1 Timothy 3:1, 8-13

1This saying is trustworthy: “If anyone aspires to be an overseer, he desires a noble work.”

**8**Deacons, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not drinking a lot of wine, not greedy for money, **9**holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. **10**They must also be tested first; if they prove blameless, then they can serve as deacons. **11**Wives, likewise, should be worthy of respect, not slanderers, self-controlled, faithful in everything. **12**Deacons are to be husbands of one wife, managing their children and their own households competently. **13**For those who have served well as deacons acquire a good standing for themselves and great boldness in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.