

Nominating New Deacons 2023

Thesis: We are in the process of nominating new deacons to serve here at Calvary.

Text: Acts 6:1-7; 1 Timothy 3:8-13

We are blessed to have amazing servant leaders at Calvary. Today, I want to invite you to participate in our **Deacon Selection Process**. We are looking to add 5 - 7 new deacons.

Our current deacons are Evelyn Owens (Chairman), Shannon Birdwell, Tom Petry, Jane Winne, Al Nash, Magan Yarbrough, Jim Edwards, Sharon Williams, and Louis Posthauer. Magan, Jane, Shannon, and Tom are rotating off in January 2023.

And, I want to remind you about the people that serve on our **Elder Team**: Steve Buckles, Russ Gressett, Martin Jordana, Steve Meeks, Doug Meriwether, Joshua Rushing, Keith Ressler, and Jeff McGee.

These servants are such a gift to Calvary and to me as your pastor!

Calvary's Deacon Ministry Model

Our deacons are a group of godly people with a heart for God and for his body of believers. They are people willing to minister toward the goal of making Calvary a HEALTHY BODY and a BEAUTIFUL BRIDE for Jesus Christ. Our model at Calvary is a flexible guideline for deacon ministry based on Acts 6:1-7.

Acts 6:1 In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. 6 They presented these men to the apostles, who prayed and laid their hands on them. 7 So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith (NIV).

1. A Meeter of Needs (vs. 1 and vs. 3)

The word “deacon” means “servant.” The office of deacon is a calling to work to meet practical needs in the church family. They stay attuned to the church family and serve to meet practical needs in order to promote the ministry of the Word and prayer and the overall health of church life.

2. A Minister to the Pastors (vs. 2-4, 6-7)

Deacons assist the pastors and elders by relieving them of the many distractions, demands, and pressures of the church family. Deacons stand ready to assist the pastors and elders in any “service” that would support and promote the ministry of the Word and prayer, and visionary oversight of the church as assigned to them by the Lord.

3. A Maintainer of Unity (vs. 1 and vs. 5)

In Acts Chapter Six, we see that a practical need was being overlooked that resulted in complaining among some of the church members. The deacons were charged with meeting the practical need, restoring harmony to the church family, and partnering with the pastors and elders by assisting them as described above.

4. A Model of Christlikeness (vs. 3)

The men chosen for the office of deacon were described as “full of the Spirit and wisdom,” “full of faith and the Holy Spirit,” and they were willing to have “this responsibility” turned over to them. Against the backdrop of the New Testament, a deacon is simply a shining example of what every Christian is meant to be and to do. So, deacons serve as models of Christlikeness to the church.

Deacon Qualifications

The Greek word translated “deacon” means servant. The deacon is one who serves and ministers to the church. The Bible sets forth the following qualifications for deacons:

1. **ACTS 6:3** *“But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task.”*
 1. “from among you” – Relationally grounded, personally committed, and spiritually growing
 2. “good reputation” – A respectable person inside and outside this fellowship
 3. “full of the Spirit” – A Spirit-filled person as observed by the fruit of the Spirit in their lives
 4. “full of . . . wisdom” – A person who can make right decisions
 5. “in charge of this task” – A person who is willing to lead in serving this fellowship’s needs
2. **1 TIMOTHY 3:8-13**
 - a. This list, like the one for the overseers or pastors mentioned in vs. 1-7, focuses on the character rather than duties. The New Testament contains little explicit discussion of the role of deacons. Defining the job description is left up to the local church leadership team.
 - b. These items express character traits which can be observed in a person’s life and are essential for godliness in leadership. They are not rigid laws, but reflective of a person’s spiritual growth and character. The list of qualities is not intended to be exhaustive but pictures a person of mature Christian character, one whose faith has had tangible impact on his or her behavior.
 - c. *It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. 2 An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, 3 not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money. 4 He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity 5 (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?); 6 and not a new convert, lest he become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. 7 And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he may not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. 8 Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, 9 but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. 10 And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they*

are beyond reproach. 11 Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. 12 Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. 13 For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus (1 Timothy 3:1-13 NASB).

d. **Personal life:**

- i. vs. 8 “dignity” – worthy of respect, serious minded; ***level headed, solid, steady**
- ii. vs. 8 “not double-tongued” – not deceitful, not a liar; ***sincere, truthful**
- iii. vs. 8 “not . . . addicted to much wine” – not given to excess; ***temperate**
- iv. vs. 8 “not . . . fond of sordid gain” – not greedy, not a money-grubber, not dishonest; ***honest in business, and not money hungry**

e. **Religious life:**

- i. vs. 9 “Holding the mystery of the faith with a clear conscious” – wholehearted commitment to the faith, understanding God’s truth; ***sound in doctrine and behavior**
- ii. vs.10 “be tested . . . beyond reproach” – proved, examined; ***proven, stable person in his life-style**

f. **Women deacons:**

- i. vs. 11 The qualifications for women in this verse are merely a summary of vs. 8-10. This verse simply says, “What goes for the men goes for the women.”
- ii. vs. 11 “dignified” – ***worthy of respect, level-headed** (see v.8 “dignity”)
- iii. vs. 11 “not malicious gossips” – ***sincere and truthful** (see v.8 “not double-tongued”)
- iv. vs. 11 “temperate” – ***moderation, self-restraint** (see v.8 “not addicted to much wine”)
- v. vs. 11 “faithful” – ***proven stable in their life-style** (see v.9 and v.10 “sound in doctrine/behavior”)

g. **Family life:**

- i. vs. 12 “husbands of only one wife” – literally “a one-woman kind of man”; ***faithful in marriage**
- ii. vs. 12 “good managers of their children and their own households” – managing their children and household well; ***good spiritual managers and leaders in their home**
- iii. vs. 13 “For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves high standing and great confidence in the faith that

is in Christ Jesus.” – This verse is a good check-point for deacons who are already serving. **Faithfulness to these qualities should produce:** (1) respect by God and people, (2) boldness in sharing their faith, and (3) confidence in God which inspires others to have confidence in them

3. *“Neither be ye called masters; for one is your master, even Christ. But He that is greatest among you shall be your servant” (Matthew 23:10-11).*

Considerations for deacon nominations

As we get ready to nominate some people for consideration to serve as deacons at Calvary, I want to encourage you to take the following steps.

1. **Pray.**
 - a. Ask the Lord who he wants you to nominate for consideration as a deacon.
 - b. Ask the Lord to make you aware of people who are already “deaconing.”
2. **Consider the biblical qualifications** which we have talked about today and which you have in your handout as you consider nominating people for consideration as deacons.
3. **Look for specific members of this congregation who are already “deaconing.”**
 - a. Look for someone whose relationship and faith in Jesus is revealed in their character and behavior; they are shining examples.
 - b. Look for someone who is already serving faithfully in this body, in big or small ways.

Directions for nominating deacons

1. You may nominate up to six people for consideration to serve as a deacon.
2. Please turn in your nominations by Sunday, September 24.
3. Only official voting members of Calvary may submit nominations for consideration.
 - a. Who is a member of Calvary?
 - i. A member of Calvary is someone who is a follower of Jesus, has been baptized, and has gone through the New Member Process (like someone we led to the Lord).

- ii. Or a member of Calvary is a baptized follower of Jesus who made a decision to join Calvary and has been through our New Member Process (like coming from another church).
 - iii. Or, a member of Calvary is someone who is a part of a family that joined Calvary, at some time became a baptized follower of Jesus, and is now 16 years or older.
 - b. **By the way, if the Lord is speaking to you about joining Calvary and being a part of this church family, please indicate your desire on the Calvary Connection Card.**
4. There are several ways to make your nominations.
- a. You can use [this handout](#) to nominate up to 6 people to be considered for deacon ministry. You can place your nominations in one of the offering baskets as you leave.
 - b. Or, you can give your nominations to one of our staff members after the service. ([Nomination cards](#) are available in the Prayer Room.)
 - c. Or, you can email your nominations to email@calvaryhouston.com.
 - d. Or, you can use this [link](#), open the *Ministry One app*, or use your camera for this QR code.



5. **Plan for deacon selection process:** (see [handout](#))
- a. Preach on deacon ministry and ask people to prayerfully consider nominating up to 6 people. Date: 9'17'23
 - b. Receive nominations by ballot. Date: 9'17'23 – 9'24'23
 - c. Screening committee meets after 9'24'23.
 - i. **The "deacon candidates" shall then be reviewed by a screening committee which shall consist of one member of the Senior Pastoral Council, one currently serving deacon, and one official member of the church who is appointed by the Senior Pastoral Council.**
 - ii. Make a decision on candidates. Due Date: TBD
 - iii. Meet with deacon candidates for interviews and give them time to make a decision. Due Date: TBD
 - d. Screening committee shall present the deacon candidates to the official church membership for confirmation. Due Date: 11'12'23
 - e. Commissioning of new deacons by Elders: Due Date: 12'10'23

Thank you for being a part of the family here at Calvary. Thank you for joining with us to partner with Jesus and others on his mission in Greater Houston and beyond. Thank you for taking the time to pray, to reflect upon the qualifications for deacons, and to consider who is "deaconing" at Calvary. And, thank you for nominating some people to be considered for the deacon ministry among us.

Pray over us:

Lord, thank you for this church family. Thank you that you have placed each one in this body just as you will.

Lord, I ask you to speak to us and to help us align with what you are saying and doing.

Lord, I ask you to **release the spiritual gift of discernment**, of discerning of spirits. Help us to evaluate by the leadership of the Holy Spirit, not that we would rely on the natural vision of our eyes or our hearts.

Lord, I ask you to **speak to us** for the deacon nomination process.

Lord's Supper

Play Song with words if possible: *Remembrance by Hillsong.*

1 Corinthians 11:23 For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, 24 and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me." 25 In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." 26 For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes [prophesy that Jesus is coming back.]

27 Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. 28 A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 30 That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. 31 But if we judged ourselves, we would not come under judgment. 32 When we are judged by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be condemned with the world (1 Corinthians 11:23-32).

1. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to express gratitude to the Lord.**
2. The Lord's Supper is an opportunity **to meet the Lord at his table.**
3. In the Scripture, we read about the Passover Meal which the Lord Jesus shared with his disciples. Jesus reinterprets it and gives us the Lord's Supper. **We encounter Jesus at his Communion Table to remember all that he has done for us, all that he is doing, and all that he will do.**
4. By celebrating the Lord's Supper, (1) **we remember the Lord Jesus and his sacrifice**, (2) we **proclaim his gospel**, and (3) **we prophesy his return** (1 Corinthians 11:23-26).
5. First, let's meditate on the song, *Remembrance*, and sing it if you know it.
 - a. Then, you are released to come to the table and to get the elements for the Lord's Supper.
 - b. You can return to your seat or spread out through the Prayer Room.
 - c. I will call us back together with closing instructions and prayer after we have observed the Lord's Supper.