

WHAT DO DEACONS DO?

Helpful Questions to Ask from Acts 6:1-7

- Is a complaint being raised in the church?
- Does this complaint reveal an area of neglect concerning the ministry (service) of the church?
- What ministry (service) need is being neglected in the church that might give rise to a complaint or disunity?
- Is this area of neglect a *priority* ministry (service) of the church?
 - Is this need something pastors give attention to, should give attention to, would give attention to, or wish they could give more attention to?
- What kind of ministry (service) solution does this need call for — Oversight or Service? A Vote or Action?
 - Should this need be met with correct teaching, rebuke, church discipline or steering? Does this need call for a decision to be made, leadership, or oversight (the work of Overseers)?
 - Should this need be met through service (the work of Deacons)?
- Is this ministry (service) need such that requires appointing ministers (servants) of God's Word to serve (thus, a qualified Deacon)?
 - Does this service involve stewardship of God's Word or God's resources?
 - Is this need for service an extension of pastoral ministry and authority?
 - Or, is this a need that the saints *could* and *should* be equipped to meet?
- Would others who are called, gifted and appointed to minister the Word in the church be freed to devote more undivided attention to the ministry of the Word and Prayer by Deacons serving this need?
- Are Deacons being appointed to (put in charge of) this need under the scriptural authority and oversight given within the church? Or are Deacons endeavoring to appoint themselves in charge of meeting this need?
- Will Deacon service actually solve this need (the problem is of a solvable nature)? Or is this problem such that requires a solution *other than service* (the need requires a course correction, decision, or other provision outside the scope of Deacon service)?
- Will *right priorities* in the church be maintained by Deacons serving this neglect and complaint? Does this solution align with the church's priorities, leadership and strategy? Or does this solution work contrary to these?
- Will Deacons serving this need contribute to church unity? Will this solution of service please the church?
- Will Deacons serving this need contribute to the overall multiplication of disciples?
- Will Deacons be able to service this need as unto the Lord, with faith?