

Southside Baptist Church

in Decatur, AL



Ministry Mobilizer

"to equip the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ"
Ephesians 4:12 (ESV)

DEACON

Biblical Office of Service; Qualification Required

2021-Sept



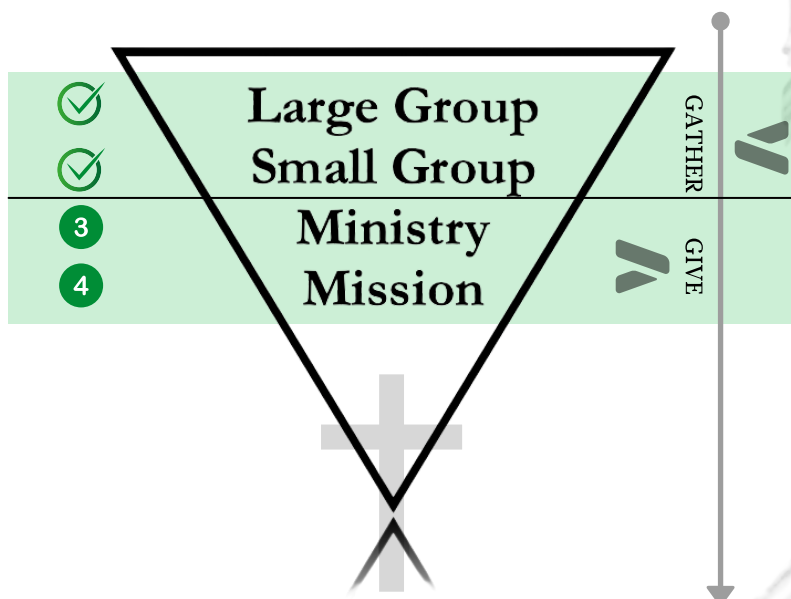
The Ministry of Deacons

About

The word Deacon (διάκονος, diakonos) is a word that refers to a helper, assistant, and in some cases, an intermediary. Therefore, we understand a Deacon to be a biblical, qualified *servant* of God's Word. A Deacon serves interdependently with Pastors who oversee and shepherd the flock of God.

GATHER & GIVE

The Membership Movement



Supporting Our Process

What Do Deacons Do?

Helpful Considerations from Acts 6:1-7 for Today:

Ask these questions:

ATTENTION

- Is a **complaint** being raised revealing a need in the church?
- Is the ministry of the church **neglecting** a need?
- Does God's **Word** compel and equip the church to meet this need?

ASSESSMENT FOR SERVICE

- Will an act of **service** resolve this need?
- Can this service be performed by someone **other** than a pastor?
- Will serving free pastors for devoted ministry of God's **Word**?
- Will serving free pastors for devoted **prayer**?
- Will serving maintain the **priorities** of the church?
- Will serving promote **unity** in the church?
- Will serving contribute to the **discipleship** of the church?
- Will serving contribute to the **growth** of the church?

THIS is a ministry for DEACONS!



At least four groups of people in the local church face consistent barriers to participation resulting in neglect, lack of community, and need for Christian care. Deacons mobilize to serve these groups as entrusted stewards of God's Word.

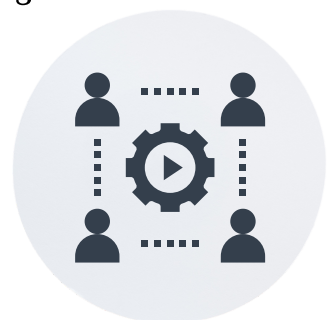
Deacons Mobilize to Serve:

HOMEBOUND. Members are confined to their homes or place of care for various reasons. They are not able to gather in the Sanctuary or with a Small Group. As a result, they lack community, teaching, communication, and Communion.

HUSBANDLESS. Members are widows in need. They do not have family able to care for them or living nearby. When in need, the church becomes that family.

HURTING. Members have temporary or ongoing needs for service, encouragement, or special care. They may not be widows, but in like manner, find themselves with life circumstances that require help at times. Perhaps these members are hurting as they grieve over the loss of a loved one? For one reason or another, these members are hurting.

HOSPITALIZED. Members need help tending to various needs while hospitalized. They value a ministry of presence through regular checkups, visitations, communications, and prayer.



Pastor & Deacon Distinctives

Pastors and Deacons are two biblical offices within the local church. When functioning rightly, both offices fill distinct roles not independently but **interdependently** as ministers of God's Word for the edification of the body of Christ through **shepherding** and **service**.



SHEPHERD Leaders

Pastors are shepherd leaders accountable to the chief-shepherd, Jesus Christ. Embodying the biblical qualifications of overseers, pastors direct membership activities, supervise the administration of resources, guard the congregation against false teaching, and care for spiritual needs within the church body (soul care) through the work of **shepherding**.

SERVANT Leaders

Deacons are servant leaders, imitating the servanthood of Jesus Christ. Embodying the biblical qualifications of deacons, they support the ministry of God's Word as entrusted servants to answer complaints, model the faith and care for temporal and physical needs within the church body through **service**.



Qualifications

God rewards and judges pastors and deacons according to qualifications outlined in His Word. Both offices minister God's Word among the body of believers and are, therefore, accountable to the Lord. Consequently, it is vital for those called or desirous of serving to understand, meet, and adhere to the Lord's qualifications.



**Deacon service is very rewarding and requires a higher standard of evaluation and affirmation.
southsidebaptist.net/deacons*

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