

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEACON

**The following information was presented to the Church by the Diaconate.
It was adopted by the Church in Conference.**

While the qualifications for Deacon are addressed in scripture (Acts 6:3 and I Timothy 3:8-13), the precise responsibilities of the office are not. Many responsibilities are implied, and others vary to meet the specific needs of the church body being served. It is without doubt or reservation that the primary responsibility of the Deacon at Morningside Baptist Church is to be a servant, as the Greek word implies, to the body of believers, thus allowing the ministerial staff to give their “attention to prayer and the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4).

The responsibilities of the Deacon at Morningside Baptist Church fall into three equal but distinct areas. No single area is more important than the other. To fall short in any of the three would hinder the overall fulfillment of responsibilities.

The first area is that of a Deacon’s personal and spiritual life. The Deacon at Morningside Baptist Church should

- ◆ Display a commitment to the call of Deacon.
- ◆ Demonstrate agape love for the pastor and staff.
- ◆ Regularly attend all worship services.
- ◆ Support other church functions and attend when possible.
- ◆ Set an example of a Christian lifestyle through tithes and offerings, praying, fulfilling one’s spiritual gifts, continuing a consistent quiet time, and maintaining a servant heart.

The second area is that of managing or administering the church through

- ◆ Serving faithfully, actively, and wholeheartedly on the appropriate Deacon Committee.
- ◆ Striving always to be a peacemaker by displaying an open mind and heart.
- ◆ Being aware of the ministries and operations of the entire church body.
- ◆ Faithfully attending all Deacons’ meetings, both regular and specially-called.
- ◆ Becoming intimately familiar with and following church policies.
- ◆ Striving always to be a spiritual arbitrator.

The third area is that of ministry. While allowing the ministerial staff members to give quality time to their calling, the Deacon should share in the ministry to the Church body through

- ◆ Fully participating in the Deacon Ministry Plan.
- ◆ Making timely contacts with new member families joining the church.
- ◆ Making hospital visits.
- ◆ Making visitations to the bereaved.
- ◆ Practicing a lifestyle of evangelism.
- ◆ Participating on a rotating basis in the First Call Program, making afternoon visits or calls to our Sunday morning guests.
- ◆ Serving the Lord’s Supper.
- ◆ Meeting as a group prior to each worship service for prayer and instruction, unless serving elsewhere.
- ◆ Receiving the regular and special offering.

The above list is a guide and list of the responsibilities of the Deacon at Morningside Baptist Church. It is not intended to be used as a report card. Neither should it be considered as an all-inclusive list. The Deacon is to be led by the Holy Spirit in the administration of this high calling. May God richly bless all who serve Him through this office. May God guide Morningside as we select those who are to serve.

DEACON ELECTION

Eligibility: Any member who is eighteen years old or older is eligible to serve as a Deacon of Morningside Baptist Church.

In order for the person's name to go forward on the ballot, he or she must receive at least five nominations and agree to serve for a period of three years.

Ineligibility: The spouses of staff members are not eligible to serve as Deacons.

Individuals may not be nominated if they are either currently serving as Deacons or they are not serving because they have served within the last two years.