

# ARTICLE VI – DEACON MINISTRY

## 6.1 Purpose:

The Deacon Ministry exists to assist the Pastor<sup>1</sup> and pastoral staff in shepherding the Church. The Deacon Ministry is in service to Christ and the Church.

While Bannockburn Baptist Church operates as one church across multiple campuses, the Deacon Ministry shall be organized with separate Deacon bodies serving each campus to ensure effective local ministry while maintaining unity in purpose and mission.

## 6.2 Structure:

**6.2.1 Campus-Based Organization** Each campus of Bannockburn Baptist Church shall have its own Deacon body who primarily serve and minister within that specific campus.

**6.2.2 Unity of Purpose** While organized separately by campus, all Deacons share the same purpose, qualifications, and core duties as outlined in this article.

**6.2.3 Inter-Campus Coordination** Deacon chairmen from each campus shall meet regularly with the Pastor or his designee to ensure coordination, share best practices, and maintain unity of mission across all campuses.

## 6.3 Duties:

**6.3.1 Primary Duties** Deacons serve the Lord Jesus Christ by:

- Conducting the caring ministry of the Church within their campus
- Performing benevolence work and practical assistance
- Committing to serve the Church when requested
- Being alert to the spiritual needs of the congregation
- Promoting unity within the Church both locally and across campuses
- Facilitating the spread of the gospel

**6.3.2 Ministry Focus** In accordance with the meaning of the work and practice of the New Testament, Deacons are to be ministering servants of the Church, addressing practical needs that unify the church and release pastors to focus on prayer and the ministry of the Word.

**6.3.3 Campus-Specific Focus** Each campus Deacon body shall adapt their service priorities to meet the specific demographic and community needs of their campus while maintaining the core Deacon ministry functions.

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<sup>1</sup> Where 'Pastor,' as in senior pastor.

## **6.4 Qualifications**

Deacons shall be selected based upon qualifications contained in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7:

### **6.4.1 Biblical Qualifications**

- Good reputation,
- Above reproach,
- Filled with the spirit of God,
- Wise,
- A man of dignity,
- Honest,
- Not a drunkard,
- Husband of one wife,
- Good manager of his family, and
- Free from the love of money.

### **6.4.2 Additional Criteria**

- A Church member for at least one year with prior Deaconship;
- otherwise, a Church member for at least three years,
- Consistent in financial giving to the ministry of the Church,
- Active in small group (at least 60% attendance) and worship participation, and
- Approval of the pastoral staff.

## **6.5 Selection Process**

**6.5.1 Campus-Based Selection** Each campus shall annually form its own Deacon Search Team comprised of:

- Deacon officers from that campus, as selected by that campus's Deacons.
- The Pastor or his campus designee

**6.5.2 Search Team Responsibilities** Each campus Deacon Search Team shall have the following responsibilities:

- Determine the number of Deacons required to adequately serve their campus
- Receive nominations of eligible men from the campus Deacons, Life Group teachers, and pastoral staff
- Interview all nominees concerning their desires and qualifications for the office of Deacon
- Recommend to the Church the names of all qualified Deacon candidates that desire to serve
- Following election, assist the Pastor and Church in the ordination of Deacon candidates

### **6.5.3 Election Process**

- Election by the Church shall be by a simple majority vote of the qualified voting members present in a regular or special business meeting
- Members may vote for Deacon candidates from any campus.
- Elections shall be held as needed to augment each campus Deacon body.

## **6.6 Officers**

**6.6.1 Campus Officers** Each campus Deacon body shall elect annually from its body:

- A Chairman
- A Vice-Chairman
- A Secretary

## **6.6.2 Officer Duties**

- **Chairman:** Shall preside at all meetings of their campus Deacons and perform other duties as authorized by their Deacons.
- **Vice-Chairman:** Shall assist the Chairman and perform Chairman duties upon the Chairman's death, absence, resignation, request, or inability to perform duties.
- **Secretary:** Shall keep records of membership and attendance for their campus Deacons, make reports on Deacon recommendations to their campus, and perform other required duties.

**6.6.3 Multi-Campus Coordination** Each campus Deacon Chairman shall serve on an Inter-Campus Deacon Coordination Committee that meets regularly with pastoral staff to ensure unity and coordination across all campuses.

## **6.7 Meetings**

**6.7.1 Campus Meetings** Deacons at each campus shall meet regularly at times and places as their Chairman may determine. The Deacons present shall constitute a quorum.

**6.7.2 Multi-Campus Meetings** An annual joint meeting of all Deacons shall be held to foster unity, share vision, and coordinate ministry efforts across campuses. The Inter-Campus Deacon Coordination Committee in conjunction with the Pastor may determine the time and place for the joint annual meeting. The Deacons present shall constitute a quorum.

## OTHER PERTINANT ARTICLES:

- 1.6.2 But, finding that the welfare of the Church shall best be served by the exclusion of the member, the Pastor shall convene a review committee of the following leaders: ~~Operations Pastor/Director~~, the campus pastor where the member attends and/or attended, ~~Chairman of the Deacons~~, the Deacon Chairman from the campus the member attends and/or attended, Chairman of the Personnel Ministry Team, Chairman of the Trustees, and up to two other persons as deemed necessary by the Pastor. This team shall prayerfully consider the recommendation of the Pastor and, with a unanimous vote, may proceed to declare the offender to be no longer in the membership of the Church.
- 4.6.2.2 The Chairman of the Personnel Ministry Team shall chair the Interim Pastor Search Team. The remaining members of the Interim Pastor Search Team shall be the members of the Personnel Ministry Team sitting at that time and the ~~Chairman of the Deacons~~ Deacon Chairman from each campus. This team shall remain intact until an Interim Pastor is recommended and approved by the Church. Should the Chairman of the Personnel Ministry Team or ~~Chairman of the Deacons~~ a Deacon Chairman from any campus change due to term limitations, this Interim Pastor Search Team shall remain intact until they accomplish their task.