

## Parkade Baptist Church Deacon Qualifications and Expectations

The expectations of a deacon may be summarized by the following:

1. **Good Character:** Deacons are expected to exhibit Godly character. In 1 Timothy 1:8, the Apostle Paul says, *“Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain.”*
2. **Spiritual Wisdom:** Deacons are expected to be spiritually mature and well-grounded in Biblical faith. In 1 Timothy 3:9, the Apostle Paul says, *“They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience.”*
3. **An Examined Life:** Deacons are expected to be willing to be examined in matters of life and faith prior to serving as a deacon. In 1 Timothy 3:10, the Apostle Paul says, *“And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless.”*
4. **Good Family Life:** Deacons are expected to be spiritual leaders within their family and manage their homes and family well. In 1 Timothy 3:11-12, the Apostle Paul says, *“Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well.”*
5. **Serve Well:** Deacons are expected to be model servants in the life of the church who seek to fulfill their assigned service roles in an exemplary, faithful fashion. In 1 Timothy 3:13, the Apostle Paul says, *“For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”*
6. **Accept Service Assignments:** Deacons are expected to serve alongside the pastors-meeting practical needs so that the pastoral leadership can devote quality time and attention to teaching and preaching the Word. This is in accordance with Acts 6:1-4: *“Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenist arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”*

## **Parkade Baptist Church General Responsibilities of a Deacon**

Deacons are to recognize their roles as servant leaders in the church. They are to love the church because the church belongs to Jesus (Matthew 16:18) and He laid His life down for the church (Ephesians 5:25). A Deacon's love and commitment to Christ should be demonstrated through a love and commitment to the local church. They are to model faithful service and set a high standard of commitment and service for others to follow. Deacons should aspire to have an attitude that reflects the attitude of the Apostle Paul's in 1 Corinthians 11:1, *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ."*

The Deacons will work alongside the pastors and church staff in the following ways:

1. Lead the church in achieving her mission.
2. Shepherd members of the church within their small group and circles of influence.
3. Fulfill assigned roles and communicate to the Deacon Chair in advance when unable to fulfill an assigned role.
4. Communicate with the pastors and church staff the needs of church members needing greater attention.
5. Advance the cause of Jesus Christ through faithful giving and consistent tithing.
6. Promote the general wellbeing and health of the church.
7. Attend regular deacons' meetings.
8. Encourage spiritual growth and discipleship among church members and strive for peace and harmony within the church body.
9. Demonstrate the behavior of what it means to be faithful member of PBC.
10. Model the behavior of Christ to the world outside of PBC so that others are drawn towards Christ and His church rather than away from it.
11. Know the gospel and be an influence for Christ both in the church and outside the church.
12. Assist with administering the ordinances (Lord's Supper and Baptism).