

Ministry Description for the Deacon Council First Baptist Church, Los Alamos, New Mexico

Principal Function:

Deacons are officers of the church as designated by Article VII of the FBCLA Constitution and Bylaws. Their principal function is to be servants promoting the spiritual life of the church and working in the ministries of the church.

Organization and Membership:

Number of Members:

The church shall determine the number of Deacons to actively serve on the Deacon Council as needed and the number may vary from year to year.

Qualifications of Deacons:

Deacons and, if married, their wives shall meet the qualifications outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

Deacon Officers:

The council of active Deacons shall annually choose its own officers, including chairman, vice-chairman, and other such officers as the Council deems necessary. Deacon officers shall not serve in the same position for two consecutive years.

Term of Service:

The office of Deacon is a life-long commitment. The church shall elect Deacons for terms of active service in three-year increments. A Deacon shall be eligible for re-election at the end of his three-year term.

Election of Deacons:

Nominating Procedure:

During the month of July each year the Deacon Nominating Committee will accept nominations from the church body. Any active church member may submit nominations for Deacon. Before submitting the nomination, the church member should prayerfully consider the qualifications of the man whom they plan to nominate against the requirements given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and other relevant scriptures. If the man is married, the church member should also consider the qualifications of his wife against the same scriptures. Members shall submit their nominations in writing and shall sign their submissions.

Deacon Nominating Committee:

A Deacon Nominating Committee shall convene each year to examine nominations received from the church body. The Deacon Nominating Committee shall consist of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee and two other members of that committee together with three Deacons selected by the Deacon Council. The committee shall

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screen all nominees before presenting them to the church for vote, and they will keep all names of nominated individuals confidential until the screening has been completed.

Ordination:

The Committee will present directly to the church for vote all screened nominees who have already been ordained as a Deacon in a Southern Baptist Church. If a nominee has not been ordained as a Deacon in a Southern Baptist Church, once the Committee screens him an Ordination Council, consisting of the ordained men of the Church, shall examine him. If the Ordination Council finds that the candidate meets the Biblical qualifications for the office of Deacon, they shall recommend him to the church for examination, vote, and then ordination. No man will be ordained who is scripturally unqualified.

Election:

The church shall vote by secret ballot on the nominees who are submitted to it. The ballot shall make clear that members may vote for or against each nominee individually. If the church desires to permit absentee balloting they will comply with Article X, Section 3 of the Implementing Policies. The election shall occur during the month of September, with the newly elected Deacon Council term beginning on the first Sunday of October. Nominees must receive at least 75% of the vote to be elected.

Deacon Emeritus:

At any regularly scheduled meeting of the Deacon Council, the Deacon Council may elect a Deacon Emeritus if:

1. He has served FBCLA as an active Deacon for at least 15 years.
2. An active Deacon nominates him.
3. Two-thirds of the Council are present.
4. He receives the unanimous vote of those present.

The Deacon Emeritus assumes office at the time that newly elected Deacons assume office. The term of office is indefinite.

Duties:

In keeping with the original model of deacons in the early church (Acts 6:1-7), Deacons are to be servants who promote the spiritual life of the church. They are to assist the Pastor in his ministry to the church, see to the distribution of church resources to those in need, and promote harmony within the church body.

Deacons at FBCLA are expected to:

1. Seek to win the lost to Christ.

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2. Visit those who are sick, grieving, in need, or out of fellowship with the church.
3. Support the life of the church through prayer, tithing, and active participation in church ministries.
4. Regularly attend worship services and other times of gathering of the body.
5. Uphold the Pastor in prayer and assist him in any way possible.
6. Oversee the distribution of benevolence, administer the Lord's Supper, and be responsible for leading worship in the pastor's absence, unless otherwise arranged.
7. Seek to live and present to the world a Christ-like life.