

## Deacon Ministry

### *The Deacon Ministry at HDBC*

September 21, 2025

HDBC

This is the last in a three-part series on deacon ministry. We've looked at the likely **historical event** that led to the development of the deacon ministry in the local church. We've looked at the **character qualities**, or qualifications for those who should be selected to serve as deacons.

Today I simply want to share with you the way deacon ministry works at HDBC. Here is an interesting thing. The Bible does not offer a detailed description of how deacon ministry is to work in the local church. I believe this is because churches are found in all kinds of cultures, come in all sizes and shapes, and the needs in churches can be radically different from place to place and from time period to time period. **I think it is plausible that the reason there is no prescription for how deacons are to function in the church is to allow each church to take Biblical principles and adapt the deacon ministry to its particular situation.**

#### **1. The role of our deacons - Serve**

First and foremost, I remind those who are deacons that you have been chosen by God to serve. The word that is translated **deacon** could also be translated **servant**, for that is what it means. In the NT culture was a word that was used to describe those who waited on tables.

I've been in churches where the deacons felt it was their duty to run the business of the church. The old joke is that it is the deacon's job to keep the pastor humble and poor. Some deacons have considered pastors as simply men hired to serve for a season and then move on. To them, they are the power in the church.

There was a time when the HDBC deacons looked more like a board of directors than a body of servants. I'm so thankful that these men determined to set aside perceived power and embrace servanthood.

And they made the decision to do this before I came to be your pastor. One of the first things they communicated to me is that they wanted to conform to the Biblical teachings about deacon ministry. And they knew this meant setting aside any perception of power and focusing on prayer and ministry. They continue to do so.

So, when you think of men to nominate as deacons, think of men who are servants. And if you are nominated, understand that you are being nominated to a position of leadership, that is **cloaked in service**.

At HDBC our deacons are not business managers, bosses or controllers. They are servants who lead through ministry, prayer, outreach and encouragement.

## **2. The selection of our deacons**

The only hint that we have in the NT of how deacons were selected is found in Acts 6. The apostles asked the church to select seven men. Once selected, they presented them to the apostles, who laid hands on them in a commissioning or ordination service, then turned them loose to get the job done. So, each church must work out the details of how they want to approach this selection process. At HDBC, our deacons serve on a rotation basis, serving three years, then rotating off for at least one year.

### **Here is a snapshot of the HDBC process.**

Nomination process. Church members nominate men.

Nominees are contacted and asked to pray about it.

Nominees are encouraged to come to an informational meeting.

Nominees are given some time to pray and decide if they will serve.

The list of men who agree to serve is presented to the church.

The church will make the selection on a Sunday morning.

If a man has never served as a deacon, he will be ordained.

The new deacons will begin to serve in January.

It is a three-year commitment to actively serve. Lifetime appointment.

### **3. The actions of our deacons**

What do our deacons do? What are the expectations?

Expected to maintain the high standards we talked about last week.

Expected to be actively involved in the life of the church.

Expected to attend monthly deacon meetings. 4th Sunday @ 7:30 a.m.

Expected to keep certain things confidential. (in meetings)

#### **1) Prayer Ministry**

Active deacons are expected to pray regularly for the church. Much of our monthly meetings involved praying for the church, for ministries, for lost people and for one another. Deacons are encouraged to come to the altar during the invitations to pray for those in the services.

#### **2) Widows and Widowers**

Each deacon is assigned a number of widows or widowers. He is asked to contact his widows/widowers each month to check-in with them. He should minister to them and assist with their needs. Changing light bulbs, helping with challenging problems, offering guidance and help.

#### **3) Encouragement**

Deacons are asked to be on the frontlines of encouraging others in the church. SG leaders. Ministry leaders. Pastor and staff. Other deacons. Prospects.

#### **4) Ushers, Greeters, Safety**

The deacon body will take responsibility for the design, implementation, and supervision of the ministries of ushers, greeters and security. This will involve the recruitment, training, scheduling and supervising of all volunteers to fill the needs in these areas. The deacons will ensure that at least one person remains in the Foyer and Café Mac at all times to keep those entrances secure.

## **5) Leadership**

The deacon body will not serve as an administrative board for the church. However, because they have been elected by the church to serve in a position of Biblical leadership, they should be involved as leaders. The wisdom and spiritual maturity which they possess will aid the church in all that it seeks to do. At no time should the administrative duties of the deacon body supersede its ministry duties. The leadership duties of the deacon body are as follows:

### **A. Serve as an advisory group for the pastor and staff.**

The pastor and staff are encouraged to discuss with the deacons major program changes and ministry plans. This will help eliminate blind spots and potential problems, leading to a positive implementation of plans. This will also contribute to a shared leadership and responsibility for the church's ministry.

### **B. Serve as an advisory group to committees**

It is recommended that committees bring reports and recommendations to the deacon body for advice and support prior to bringing them before the church for approval. The deacons may; 1) Offer suggestions to the committee and encourage further consideration before the recommendation is presented to the church, 2) Take no action on the recommendation, or 3) Choose to join the committee in its recommendation to the church.

This interaction will enable the committees to broaden the dialogue concerning a particular report or recommendation and to identify potential duplication with other committees. It will also enable the deacons to fulfill their roles of protecting church unity and enhancing church growth. This action will also broaden the leadership base and strengthen recommendations.

### **C. Provide spiritual leadership in the absence of a pastor**

In the absence of a pastor, the church will need sensitive, but strong leadership. It is only natural that the deacon body provide this leadership. During those times, the deacon body will work closely with the existing staff to ensure continued unity, growth and a smooth transition.

Close with a few verses about servanthood that apply not only to deacons but to all of us.

**The Bible reveals the nature of true servanthood.**

Mark 10:43. *It is not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant.*

Galatians 5:13. *For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.*

**Jesus is the ultimate example of what it means to be a servant**

Philippians 2:7. *But (He) emptied Himself by taking the form of a servant, being form in the likeness of men.*

Mark 10:45. *For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*

His greatest act of service was giving His life for you.

Your greatest act of service to Him will come when you yield your life and accept His gift of forgiveness and eternal life.