

DEACON QUALIFICATIONS
(Taken from the SCBC Bylaws – 2014 Edition)

Office

The office of Deacon is recognized as a high and holy office, but its honor is acquired from service rather than position. All members who serve as Active Deacons must be ordained in a Southern Baptist Church. There should be nine deacons as called and qualified and one deacon for each additional fifty active members or part thereof after the first two hundred members. Deacons will be elected to serve a term of three years under the rotating system, when they retire from their three year term new deacons will be elected to replace them. A period of one year must elapse from the time a deacon retires from the active office until he is eligible for re-election. Terms of office will begin on the first Sunday in January if he has been previously ordained; otherwise, on the date of his ordination. Any man selected to be a deacon who has not been previously ordained will be ordained soon after his election at the direction of the Senior Pastor.

Qualifications

The following deacon qualifications are based on biblical principles, including but not limited to those stated in 1 Timothy, Scriptural requirements, the Shoal Creek Baptist Church Constitution, Church Covenant, and Shoal Creek Baptist Church traditions.

A deacon is a man who has a personal relationship with God through faith in Jesus Christ, a personal testimony of his conversion, and is prepared to share it with others. He is a faithful, active member of Shoal Creek Baptist Church who is willing to serve the congregation. A deacon is to be a role model for other members in every aspect of his life. While certainly not perfect, deacons should continue in their spiritual growth.

(1) Personal

A deacon's life should demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit and he should be growing spiritually. Deacons are men of integrity and you can depend on what they say.

A deacon should abstain from the sale and/or use of intoxicating drink as a beverage. This also applies to the abuse of any drug and certainly to the use of illegal drugs.

Deacons are expected to be men of prayer who are doctrinally sound and have a firm foundation in God's Word.

Deacons shall tithe to God's Kingdom through Shoal Creek Baptist Church. Not only are deacons to practice tithing of income, but are expected to be good stewards of all resources including time and talents.

A deacon should not be a new Christian but one who has lived a Christian life and found to be faithful. A deacon must be at least twenty-five (25) years old and have been a member of Shoal Creek Baptist Church for at least one (1) year prior to the year he is to begin serving.

(2) At Home

A deacon should be the spiritual leader of his home. If married, his wife is to be a Christian and support his ministry as a deacon. If he has children, his children should obey and respect him. He is to be a good father and provider for his family.

(3) Church

A deacon has a good standing before God and men and can be used of God to build the church. He willingly uses his God-given gifts, talents, and abilities to serve God in his church. A deacon should be willing to work in harmony with the pastor, other church staff, fellow deacons, and church members toward the mission of the church. He must be regular in attendance and faithful to the programs of the church.

He should also support the Southern Baptist Convention and the Cooperative Program.

Responsibilities and Duties of Active Deacons

In accordance with the meaning of the work and the practice in the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. Their task is to serve with the Senior Pastor and staff in performing the pastoral ministry tasks of:

- (1) Participate conscientiously in the meetings and activities of the church and deacons.
- (2) He should attend church services regularly every Sunday morning and Sunday night, every Wednesday night and all special church meetings unless hindered by some good reason which is approved by a good conscience.
- (3) He should be evangelistic and missionary in spirit, deeply interested in the salvation of souls at home and abroad.
- (4) He should be a man who refrains from destructive criticism of his church, willing to settle all difficulties in a quiet and Christian manner without hurting the cause of Christ and his church.
- (5) He should be able to keep in confidentiality those things which should not be discussed with others.
- (6) Cooperate with the Senior Pastor and staff in helping fulfill the functions of worship, witness, education, and ministry of Shoal Creek Baptist Church.
- (7) Accept the responsibility to serve in the Deacon Ministry to support the pastoral ministry of the church.
- (8) He should be active in the various activities of the church: Sunday School, Discipleship Training, and other programs adopted and promoted by the church.
- (9) He should live a consecrated Christian life, bringing no reproach by his conduct on the church or the cause of Christ.
- (10) Assist the Senior Pastor in observing the two ordinances of the church, Baptism and the Lord's Supper.
- (11) To make ministry recommendations to the church as they deem necessary.