



Deacon Ordination Examination

Based on our Church's Bylaws,
Covenant, & the Baptist Faith & Message

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SALVATION EXPERIENCE:

1. Ask the candidate to share how he was saved.

1 Timothy 3:9 (NLT) - Before they are appointed as deacons, let them be closely examined. If they pass the test, then let them serve as deacons.

BIBLICAL QUALIFICATIONS:

1. Read 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:1-7.
2. Ask the candidate if he is making these qualifications a lifestyle goal:
 - 1) **Likewise deacons must be reverent** (3:8) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN OF DIGNITY, WORTHY OF RESPECT?
 - 2) **not double-tongued**(3:8) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN OF YOUR WORD– ONE WHO CAN BE TRUSTED?
 - 3) **not given to much wine** (3:8) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN PEOPLE CAN LOOK UP TO, WITHOUT OFFENSE?
 - 4) **not greedy of filthy lucre** (3:8) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO HONORS CHRIST BY THE WAY YOU OBTAIN WEALTH?
 - 5) **holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience**(3:9) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO CLEARLY UNDERSTANDS YOUR CONVICTIONS, and ARE YOU PURSUING TO LIVE THEM OUT WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE?
 - 6) **But let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons** (3:10)
 - 7) **being found blameless**(3:10) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO IS CONSISTENTLY SEEKING TO LIVE ABOVE REPROACH, NOT BRINGING EMBARRASSMENT TO CHRIST OR HIS CHURCH?
 - 8) **Likewise, their wives must be reverent** (3:11) – Is your wife endeavoring to be a woman whose conduct is respected by others in the church? Does your wife take seriously the call to be a deacon's wife?
 - 9) **(wives must not be) slanderers** (3:11) – Is your wife endeavoring to be a woman who is not a gossip? Does she manage her opinions and concerns about the church responsibly? Does she realize that her words can cause division, which is the reason deacons were selected in the first place?
 - 10) **(wives must be) temperate** (3:11) – Is your wife endeavoring to be self-disciplined in her dealings with others, being fair, logical, sensible, and practical?
 - 11) **(wives must be) faithful in all things** (3:11) – Is your wife endeavoring to be faithful in her commitments to the church? Does she trust God and those He has placed over her to lead the church?
 - 12) **husbands of one wife**(3:12) – Are you endeavoring to be a ONE-WOMAN KIND OF MAN, with heart, mouth, hands and eyes purely devoted to your wife?
 - 13) **ruling their children** (3:12) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO NURTURES, INSTRUCTS, GUIDES AND DISCIPLINES HIS CHILDREN?
 - 14) **ruling...their own houses well** (3:12) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO ACCEPTS HIS BIBLICAL ROLE AS SPIRITUAL LEADER OF HIS HOME, SETTING THE PACE FOR THE REST OF HIS HOUSEHOLD?
 - 15) **full of the Holy Spirit** (Acts 6:3) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO IS CONTINUALLY CONTROLLED BY THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE LORDSHIP OF CHRIST (in contrast to being full of self and the world)?
 - 16) **full of wisdom** (Acts 6:3) – Are you endeavoring to be a MAN WHO IS GUIDED BY THE WISDOM FROM THE SCRIPTURES (in contrast to being full of wisdom in opposition to the Word of God)?

3. Read the qualifications of a deacon set forth by our Church By-laws.
4. Ask the candidate if he is willing to live out these Church qualifications:
 - 1) A deacon must measure up to the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.
 - 2) He must live a consecrated life, attempting to bring no reproach upon the church or the cause of Christ.
 - 3) He must be a man of spiritual vision, desiring to move forward in the work of the church.
 - 4) He must be regular in attendance upon the services of the church, and support through his presence the organizations of the church. He must also attend deacons meetings with regularity.
 - 5) He must be evangelistic and missionary in spirit, as revealed in his willingness to visit in the name of the church, and to win others to Christ.
 - 6) He must cooperate with the pastor, as God's under shepherd, and support him, always ready to lighten the load of the pastor so that he may give himself continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word.
 - 7) He must be a man whose main interest is the extension of Christ's Kingdom in the hearts of men.
 - 8) He must subscribe to the letter and spirit of the church policies as agreed upon by the church.

5. Read the Church Covenant.

6. Ask the candidate if he is willing to sign our Church Covenant in good conscience.

"Having been led, as we believe, by the Spirit of God, to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior, and on the profession of our faith, having been baptized in the name of our Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we do now in the presence of God, and this assembly, most solemnly and joyfully enter into covenant with one another as one body in Christ.

"We engage, therefore, by the aid of the Holy Spirit, to walk together in Christian love; to strive for the advancement of this church, in knowledge, holiness, and comfort, to promote its prosperity and spirituality; to sustain its worship, ordinances, discipline and doctrines, to contribute cheerfully and regularly to the support of the ministry, the expenses of the church, the relief of the poor, and the spread of the Gospel through all nations.

"We also engage to maintain family and secret devotions; to religiously educate our children, to seek the salvation of our kindred and acquaintances, to walk circumspectly in the world, to be just in our dealings, faithful in our engagements and exemplary in our deportment, to avoid all tattling, backbiting and excessive anger, to abstain from the sale of, and use of intoxicating drinks as a beverage; to be zealous in our efforts to advance the Kingdom of our Savior.

"We further engage to watch over one another in brotherly love; to remember one another in prayer; to aid one another in sickness and distress; to cultivate Christian sympathy in feeling and Christian courtesy in speech; to be slow to take offense, but always ready for reconciliation and mindful of the rules of our Savior to secure it without delay.

"We moreover engage that when we remove from this place, we will, as soon as possible, unite with some other church where we can carry out the spirit of this covenant and the principles of God's word."

7. Ask the candidate if he is willing to abide by the spirit and the letter of our Church Constitution, Bylaws and Covenant.

Baptist Faith and Message – 41 Doctrinal Questions:

1. The Scriptures

- 1) Do you believe that the Bible has God for its Author, salvation for its end, and truth without any mixture of error for its matter?
- 2) Share briefly your view of how the Bible came from God.
- 3) Do you believe the Bible has errors?

2. God

- 1) Briefly explain your view of the Trinity.
- 2) Do you believe in the Virgin birth of Jesus (that Jesus was divinely born without the aid of a human father)?
- 3) Do you believe that Jesus Christ is God in human flesh?
- 4) For what reason did Jesus die on the cross? Briefly explain.
- 5) What do you believe about the bodily resurrection of Jesus Christ?
- 6) Briefly explain your view of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the world today?
- 7) Do you believe that miracles are for us today? Would you pray for someone else's healing, according to James 5:13-16?

3. Man

- 1) What is meant when the Bible says that man was created in God's image?
- 2) What is your view of abortion?
- 3) What happened in the Garden of Eden, and how did this effect man's relationship with God?

4. Family

- 1) What is the Biblical role of the husband and wife in the family?
- 2) What is your conviction about same-sex marriage, or homosexual / lesbian relationships?
- 3) Who does God set as the model for a husband's love for his wife?

5. Salvation

- 1) Please explain briefly the way of salvation.
- 2) Do you believe that there is no salvation apart from a personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord?
- 3) Do you believe that a person could ever lose his salvation if he is truly saved by the grace of God through faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ at Calvary?

6. The Church

- 1) What is the mission of the church?
- 2) What should be the qualifications to be a member of a local church?
- 3) Will you make it a priority to attend all the gatherings of organized worship of Antioch Baptist Church?

7. Baptism and the Lord's Supper

- 1) Do you believe in the two primary ordinances of the church: water baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper?
- 2) Why should a believer be baptized?
- 3) What is the proper mode of baptism?

- 4) What are the symbols of the Lord's Supper and what do they represent?
- 5) Why should every believer partake of the Lord's Supper?
- 6) Are you willing to pray in public as called upon?

8. Last Things

- 1) Do you believe in the literal second coming of Jesus Christ?
- 2) How should the promise of Christ's return affect our daily living?
- 3) Where do saved people go when they die?
- 4) Where do unsaved people go when they die?
- 5) Do you believe in a literal heaven and a literal hell?

9. Evangelism and Missions

- 1) Should a local church limit evangelism and outreach to only a certain race or economic level? What is your conviction about this?
- 2) Will you personally seek to constantly find ways to lead the lost to salvation in Christ, by verbal witness under-girded by a Christian lifestyle, and by any other methods in harmony with the gospel of Christ?

10. Service and Stewardship

- 1) Please explain briefly your understanding of Christian stewardship? How does this affect your life, personally?
- 2) Believing that the Lord provides for His church through the obedient giving of its' members, will you set a Biblical example before the rest of the church by practicing storehouse tithing to your church?
- 3) The word "deacon" literally means "servant" in the original language. How does this impact your understanding of what a Deacon is to be and do?
- 4) Are you willing to share in the shepherding care of the widows and shut-ins of Antioch Baptist Church, as outlined in our By-laws?

11. Denominational Life

- 1) Explain your understanding of how Baptist churches are independent but cooperative.
- 2) How do you feel about the Cooperative Program of the Southern Baptist Convention?

Can you think of any reason why you could not, pending approval tonight, begin in September to serve your church in the ministry of a Deacon servant-leader? Do you have any questions of me or this group at this time as to your role as a Deacon to this congregation?

From Antioch Baptist Church Bylaws:

A. Number of Deacons

There will be one deacon for every ten (10) active church families. (An active family is defined as one or more church members who live in a single family dwelling who attend church an average of twelve (12) times per year minimum.) The number of active deacons will be determined by the number of active families rounded up to the nearest ten.

B. Rotation

A deacon will be elected for a three year term. His term of office will expire on August 31 of the third year of service. After serving a three year term, no man will be eligible for re-election until the lapse of at least one year. In the event that a deacon cannot finish his three (3) year term, the active deacons will determine if the church should elect a replacement deacon to complete his term and report to the church at the next business meeting.

C. Qualifications of Deacons (already outlined on page 2)

D. Election of Deacons

Deacon candidates will be recommended by the Church Council. One person will be recommended for each vacancy on the deacon board. No more than one member of an immediate family can serve on the active deacon board at the same time. Each candidate that has not been ordained by this church will be presented to the active deacon board. The deacon board will contact the candidate to determine if he is willing to serve. If so, the deacons will arrange and carry out an examination of the candidate to verify his qualifications for deacon service. If he is found acceptable, both he and the church council will be informed and he will be presented to the church for approval. If he is found unacceptable, he will be informed by the deacon board as to why and the matter will be sent back to the church council to find a more suitable candidate. In the event that there is discussion about an immediate family member (husband, parent, child, brother) of a member, the chairman of the church council will be required to ask those members to remove themselves from any discussion that relates to their family members. In addition, should any inactive deacon who is serving on the church council be considered for nomination to the deacon board, he will be asked to remove himself from any discussion relating to his nomination. The church council will present deacon candidates to the church for approval at a business meeting no later than August of each year.

E. Role of Deacon

The vision, leadership, and ministries of the church are under the authority and instruction of the active deacons, in association with the pastoral authority as defined in the "Role of the Pastor." Every deacon is to be a serving deacon in assisting in the care of the widows and elderly of our church. The active deacons share in the shepherding, overseeing, and teaching ministry with the Pastor.