

## WHAT IS A DEACON?

A deacon is a man or woman within the church appointed and set apart by the elders of Vertical Church to assist the elders/pastors in the shepherding, caring for, and equipping the church. As a result, the elders will be free to be dedicated to the ministry of the Word, prayer, and leading the body. 1 Timothy 3:8-13 describes the qualifications for a deacon as: dignified, not deceitful or hypocritical, not addicted to intoxicating substances, not greedy for dishonest gain, confident in the Christian faith, not adulterers, and good managers of their households & children. While this is not an exhaustive description of a deacon, the message is clear — deacons should be faithfully following Jesus in their lives in a manner that sets an example for the church.

## WHAT DO DEACONS DO?

The primary responsibilities of deacons include but are not limited to:

- Helping the elders/pastors lead and organize specific ministry initiatives
- Helping strengthen and oversee various ongoing ministries at Vertical Church
- Faithfully fulfill specific responsibilities given by the elders

## WHO CAN BE A DEACON?

Deacons are identified based on the biblical description above, with an emphasis on:

**FAITHFULNESS.** First, a deacon must be a covenant member of Vertical Church. Not only do candidates need to be fully devoted to Christ, but loyal to the mission and vision of the church also. Secondly, a deacon candidate must be actively attending, giving, serving, and committed to the community life of this local body.

**CHARACTER.** Though no leader can expect to be perfect, he or she must be exemplary, consistently modeling the character of Christ. All deacon candidates must meet the biblical requirements listed in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and be marked by confession and repentance.

**SERVICE.** At its foundation, being a deacon is about serving. Therefore, a deacon should display a heart that is inclined toward humble service, both toward brothers and sisters in Christ as well as the world around them.

**COMPETENCY.** Candidates need to display initiative, responsibility, and the capability to lead others effectively.

## CONCLUSION

There is a high level of trust and expectation in the diaconate, which means not every person should commit to such a calling. However, those that do serve in this capacity provide an example for the congregation of Jesus' service to his people, and provide for the needs of his congregation. In light of this, we pray that God would be glorified in the service of his people toward one another as each deacon serves according to his or her calling and they seek to serve like Jesus.