

# **DEACON POLICY**

First Baptist Church, Edna, Texas

Adopted by the church, Nov. 6, 1962  
Policy review began February 13, 2022  
Approved by Deacons, September 11, 2022

## **I. ORGANIZATION:**

- A. This organization shall be called the Deacon Council and its purpose is to serve the needs of the church as defined and directed by the church.
- B. Deacons are servants of the church without authority over the church.
- C. The Deacon Council will not make policy for the church. It may suggest actions that are referred to the church as recommendations for church consideration and disposition.

## **II. MEMBERSHIP:**

The Deacon Council shall consist of all ordained deacons recognized and approved by the church.

## **III. OFFICERS:**

- A. **DEACON COUNCIL:** The Deacon Council shall be organized with the following officers:
  - 1. Chairman
    - a. Preside over all meetings (regular and special)
    - b. Appoint committees.
  - 2. Vice-Chairman
    - a. Preside in chairman's absence with full authority.
  - 3. Secretary
    - a. Record all actions taken by the council into the council's minutes
    - b. Preside with full authority in the absence of the chairman and vice-chairman.
    - c. Maintain a list of active deacons for purpose of ensuring a qualified quorum.
    - d. Upon Secretary's absence, a deacon will volunteer to act as secretary for a meeting.
- B. **ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**
  - 1. Officers shall be elected annually from the active deacon council.
  - 2. Officer shall not succeed himself in same office.
  - 3. A nomination committee will be appointed in October.
  - 4. Nomination committee shall bring names before council for election.
  - 5. Names can also be presented from the floor.
  - 6. Officers shall be elected prior to January 1<sup>st</sup>; and serve one (1) year beginning annually on January 1.

#### **IV. MEETINGS:**

- A. The regular meeting of the council of deacons shall be monthly according to a formally adopted and duly publicized schedule set by the Deacon Council.
- B. Special meetings will be called by the chairman or vice-chairman only when it is of necessity.
- C. A quorum of  $\frac{1}{2}$  the active deacons must be present before business can be conducted. Contact of absent deacons will be initiated until a quorum exists if essential business is to be considered.
- D. "Business" is defined as any matter to be recommended for possible consideration by the church.

#### **V. CLASSIFICATION:**

- A. Deacons will be classified into two classes according to their qualification and choosing.
- B. General qualification for all classes of deacons
  - 1. Ordained in accordance with Scripture: 1 Timothy 3: 8-13; Titus 1:5-10; Acts 6:1-7.
  - 2. Member of church.
    - a. A nominee for original Deacon Ordination should be a member of First Baptist Church Edna for a period of at least three (3) years.
    - b. Any Deacon who has moved into membership from another Baptist fellowship should be a member of First Baptist Church Edna for a period of at least six (6) months before being admitted into the Deacon Body.
  - 3. Strive to be in regular attendance at all services.
  - 4. Support church programs to the best of the deacon's ability.
- C. Emeritus (unable to continue serving because of health, etc.)
  - 1. Meet the above general qualifications.
  - 2. Be specifically honored by the church.
  - 3. This is a non-voting classification.
- D. Active:
  - 1. Meets all general qualifications.
  - 2. Must be recognized as active deacon by church by election.
  - 3. Absence from three consecutive regular meetings automatically changes status to inactive, unless excused by council.
  - 4. Attendance at two consecutive meetings restores said deacon to active classification.
  - 5. Quorum will consist of  $\frac{1}{2}$  active body for regular and special meetings.

## **VI. RECOGNITION OF NEW DEACONS:**

- A. Recognition of ordained deacons from other churches:
  - 1. Member of church for six months in accordance with church bylaws.
  - 2. Be recommended and approved by the deacon council.
  - 3. Be elected by the church.
- B. Election of new deacons to deacon council:
  - 1. Church will elect deacons, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote, prior to October annually if needed to fill council.
  - 2. Council will be approximately one deacon per 10-15 resident church families.
  - 3. Church members will make nominations to deacon council. (Acts 6:2-5) by secret ballot.
  - 4. Deacon council will determine, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  majority vote, the names of those to be submitted for ordination according to scriptural qualification.
  - 5. Ordination will follow as soon as possible.

## **VII. DEACON PROGRAMS:**

- A. The following programs and associated committees are administered by the deacon council as needed by the church:
  - 1. Widow ministry.
  - 2. Usher committee.
  - 3. Lord's Supper committee.
  - 4. Unity Panel as required by the church bylaws.
  - 5. Other programs as adopted and approved by the deacon council from time to time.

## ADDITIONAL NOTES FROM DEACON MEETING MINUTES

### CHANGES MADE TO DEACON COUNCIL POLICY (From Deacon's meeting minutes search by J.V. Fella)

- 12-11-1985 Policy amended to include the Deacon Shepherd Plan. Approved by church.
- 04-10-1994 Policy amended for one time only so B.J. Taylor could serve a second term.
- 03-10-1996 Deacon Chairman will appoint Lord's Supper Committee.
- 09-08-1996 Policy amended so the term of the new officers would extend through Dec. of 1997, a 15-mo. term). Church changed to calendar year.
- 09-08-1996 Item no. 4 under Election of Officers needs to be changed to Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 10-13-1996 Memorials to apply to Deacon, Deacon's wife, Deacon's parents, Deacon's wife parents and Deacon's children.
- 11-17-1996 When a Deacon from another church joins our church and has been a member for three months the Pastor and Deacon chairman will visit with Deacon and will bring back a recommendation to Deacon Council for his membership in this council.
- 07-13-1997 Widow Ministry to be implemented in Sept. 1997. Plans are for a rotation of two Deacons to be on call each month to serve the needs of the widows. Widows to call Church office when need help. Secretary to contact Deacon on call.
- 11-14-1999 Deacon Policy approved
- 06-09-2013 Review and revised the Deacon Policy.
- 02-13-2022 Review of Deacon Policy begins
- Date to be added Deacon Policy approved by church. Deacon Shepherd Plan removed from policy.