

# What does it mean to be a Deacon at Chapel Hill?

**The definition of a Deacon:** The office of Deacon as set forth in Scripture is one of compassion, concern for needs, and of serving others. Therefore, the first duty of the Deacon is sympathy and service. According to Scripture, those who bear this office should exhibit especially those spiritual qualities of the Christian, and should be earnest and wholehearted followers of Christ. They should be persons who are steady and reliable, well thought of by all.

## **Facts:**

- There are total of 21 Deacons at Chapel Hill. Every year, 7 Deacons retire and 7 new Deacons are added.
- Each term is 3 years. Two terms can be served consecutively for not more than 6 years. The term of office begins at the end of March, preceded by ordination and attendance at the March Deacon meeting.
- The Deacon Board is governed by officers who hold the position of: Moderator, Vice Moderator, Treasurer. A Staff Liaison is assigned to the board and attends all monthly meetings and assists in decisions/directives of the board.

## **Role as Deacon:**

- At Chapel Hill, deacons oversee nine ministries: Memorials, Communion, Hospitality, Homebound Visitation, Hospital Visitation, Titus, Gatekeeping, Community Outreach and Meals on Wheels. All being supported by an active volunteer base, it is the leadership role of the Deacon to encourage, organize and support volunteer teams to administer the specific needs of the ministry.
- Deacons are leaders of the church, and should be able to act decisively, as well as have the capability to organize and lead others.

- Each ministry has 2-3 Deacons assigned to it, always including a “tenured” Deacon in his/her 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year and a new Deacon to the board. This allows for mentoring of the new Deacon and overall coverage of the ministry.
- All ministries have a staff person assigned for support and accountability.

**Time Commitment:**

- Deacons meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 6PM – 8PM.
- The time commitment of a Deacon depends on the area of service chosen or assigned. For example, a Deacon who helps with memorial services will be more or less busy on any given month depending on the number of memorial services done that month. On average, Chapel Hill does 20 memorial receptions per year and each one requires 3-5 hours of each Deacon volunteer. A Deacon who serves in the Titus office will serve a one-week rotation every 4-6 weeks, volunteering approximately 24 hours during the week they are assigned to serve. Again, the time commitment greatly depends on the ministry of the Deacon
- All Deacons are responsible for making 2-3 phone calls per week to the people who have submitted prayer requests on Sunday. This requires about one hour per week, depending on the length of the conversations.
- Deacons are required to help with communion. This includes preparation, serving and clean-up. All active and past serving Deacons are asked to contribute to this ministry on Communion Sundays.
- Deacons participate in weekly prayer for one another (Wednesday is put aside for this).
- Deacons attend the annual Joint Potluck with Session.