



Christian Community Church

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Diaconate Exploration and Mentoring Program

The purpose of the program is to develop new deacon candidates for the role of servant leadership in the church.

Available to all male members of Christian Community Church with a servant heart and a desire to minister to the needs of the body. These men can be self-nominated and/or nominated by others within the church.

The Diaconate Exploration and Mentoring Program will consist of at least six monthly meetings as defined by the syllabus below. Upon completion of the program, the candidate and wife, when applicable, will discuss with the elders the appropriateness of whether to move forward toward an official appointment as deacon. A one-month examination of the candidate by the congregation will follow the completion of the program and precede any official appointment to the office of deacon.

As part of the program, each deacon candidate will be mentored by an existing deacon or elder.

Method of Instruction in the meetings will center around open dialogue and discussion. While the meetings will be facilitated by the mentoring deacon or elder, the meetings are designed to have a conversational feel and not be lecture driven.

Required Reading will consist of The New Testament Deacon: The Church's Minister of Mercy by Alexander Strauch, the church constitution, the church doctrinal statement and any relevant portions of Scripture.

Attendance is required at each meeting, and it will be the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that any missed meetings are made up.

The following syllabus details the content of the monthly meetings:

Month One: Testimonies and What Is a Deacon?

Candidate should be prepared to share their testimony of how they came to salvation in Jesus Christ and explain why they are participating in the Deacon Exploration and Mentoring Program. A brief synopsis of deacon ministry will be explained.

Month Two: Responsibilities of Servant Leaders

Candidates should be ready to discuss pages 15-54 of the Strauch book covering the roles and responsibilities of deacons in the church as found in Acts 6 and other passages.

Month Three: Deacons and Elders: A Two Office Church

Candidates should be ready to discuss pages 55-79 of the Strauch book covering the unique relationship that exists between the deacon and his fellow deacons, his elders and his church.

Month Four: The Qualifications for Deacons

Candidates should be ready to discuss pages 81-143 of the Strauch book covering the qualifications for deacons as found in 1 Timothy chapter three.

Month Five: The Importance of Deacons in the Church

Candidates should be ready to discuss pages 145-159 in the Strauch book covering the significance of having qualified deacon leadership in the church.

Month Six: Night of Prayer

Candidate and mentor should be prepared to spend the meeting in a time of prayer together for each other, for the church and for clarity in the decision to pursue an appointment as a deacon.