

ARTICLE XII THE DEACONATE

The Diaconate shall be a group of duly elected persons having met the criteria of election listed below. The Diaconate shall be servants of the Congregation in the loving spirit of Jesus Christ our Lord and shall be accountable to this Congregation.

Section 1 - Purpose

The purpose of the Diaconate is, loving service actively rendered to the glory of God and the upbuilding of the Body of Christ.

Section 2 - Requirements

The Diaconate candidate will meet certain requirements, which are stipulated by the Scripture and the Congregation. These requirements include:

- A. Being a person who receives Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord
- B. Being a person whose life is a positive testimony to Christ, manifesting the Spirit's presence in word and deed
- C. Being an active member in good standing of the Church
- D. Being a person committed to a life of learning.
- E. Being a person willing to commit to the active service of Jesus Christ
- F. Being a person who is respected in home, Church and community

After the completion of a course of study prescribed by the Pastor and with the recommendation of the Pastor, the Members of the Executive Ministry Team shall then interview the Diaconate candidate. Upon the recommendation of the Executive Ministry Team, the Diaconate candidate shall be presented to the Congregation for a final interview and vote. Upon election by three fourths (3/4) of all votes cast, the person will be ordained a Deacon of the Chilson Hills Baptist Church.

Section 3 - Duties

The duties of the Diaconate will be identified in the individual process of the candidacy. The duties will be identified as ministry areas where the goal is the glorification of God and the building of the Body of Christ. Each Deacon's area of ministry may be different.

Section 4 - Conducting Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms and Pulpit supply

We as a Church recognize that there may be occasions when a member of the Diaconate will be called upon to conduct one or more of these services in the absence of the Pastor. Since these functions are normally reserved for ordained pastors, we hereby authorize the Diaconate of our Church to perform such services when and so long as they perform these services under the direction of our Pastor.

Section 5 - Relationship to the Pastor

The Pastor is elected by the Congregation and called by God to be the overseer of this particular and unique congregation. As such, the Pastor is responsible to God for the overall ministry of this Church.

It is expected that the Pastor will understand this overseer role as being the servant of the servants of the Congregation. Hence, mutual accountability, responsibility and loving respect are expected between the Pastor and the Diaconate.