

The Deacons

PRAYER AND DISCERNMENT

As an active member, you are being considered for service as a Deacon at Escalon Presbyterian Church. Please pray about this, discerning God's leading in consultation with current priorities of your own family. The opportunity to serve your church in this role is an important one - yet it is an opportunity to help our church make life-changing impacts in the lives of those in the communities that we serve. We offer this packet to help you understand our theological commitments and the expectations involved.

THE BOARD OF DEACONS

The Board of Deacons consists of nine Deacons, elected by the congregation, according to the Polity and Discipline of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

TERMS

Each year 3 deacons are elected to serve a three-year term, following which two years must elapse before one is re-eligible for election.

RESPONSIBILITIES

Deacons lead ministries that nurture fellowship and caregiving within and beyond the congregation. Deacons may also be asked to preach and teach. The session shall oversee and direct the ministry of the deacons.

QUALIFICATIONS

Deacons must adhere to the Essentials Tenets of ECO [see attachment]. Failure of officers to continue to adhere to these standards is grounds for a session or presbytery to remove an officer from service according to the Rules of Discipline in this Constitution. Please watch this video:

<https://vimeo.com/133696065>

TEAMS

The Deacons are divided into the following teams:

Worship Leadership

1. Lay Leaders
2. Greeters
3. Communion
4. Flowers

Congregational Care

5. Shepherding - (meals, funerals, transits)
6. Prayer Chain
7. Sunshine/Card Ministry/Phone Calls

Community Care

8. C.A.R.E. Food-bank
9. Salvation Army

TIME-COMMITMENT

- Monthly meetings (ordinarily the 3rd Thursday of each month) for 1 to 1.5 hours.
- Time devoted to deacon team assignments.
- Serve as Deacon of the Month, help on large events (Deacon fundraiser, funerals, etc.)

A COMMON PURPOSE

The Board of Deacons is a non-contentious group of confidentiality that gathers under the common purpose of congregational care and witness to the community. Yes, there are disagreements and we will vote for or against each other's proposals after prayer, deliberation and discernment. Christian disagreement can be healthy to the body of Christ - political conflict is not. Every voice is heard, mutual support and respect is offered, and transparent honesty is expected. There really is great joy offered for one's vibrant service to their church.

Ordination Vows

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- *You must be able to affirm and abide by these*

- a. Do you believe in One God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and do you boldly declare Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, and acknowledge Him Lord of all and Head of the Church?
- b. Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament to be the Word of God, and, inspired by the Holy Spirit, the unique witness to Jesus Christ and the authority for Christian faith and life?
- c. Will you receive, adopt, and be bound by the Essential Tenets of ECO as a reliable exposition of what Scripture teaches us to do and to believe, and will you be guided by them in your life and ministry?
- d. Relying on the Holy Spirit, do you humbly submit to God's call on your life, committing yourself to God's mission, and fulfilling your ministry in obedience to Jesus Christ, under the authority of Scripture and guided by our confessions?
- e. Will you be governed by ECO's polity and discipline? And will you be accountable to your fellow elders, deacons, and pastors as you lead?
- f. Do you promise to be faithful in maintaining the truth of the Gospel and the peace, unity, and purity of the Church?
- g. Will you pray for and seek to serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love?
- h. Will you be a faithful deacon, serving the people, urging concern and directing the people's help to those in need?