

First Baptist Church McAlester is in need of new deacons. Please look over the qualifications and pray about nominating up to 6 men next week. Nomination cards will be available in the foyer next Sunday.

FBC BY-LAWS SECTION 2

DEACON

Qualifications:

The qualifications of a deacon are found in the New Testament scriptures in the books of Acts 6:3-5 and 1 Timothy 3:8-12. The qualifications outlined in these scriptures are not inclusive of all a deacon should be, but they describe the main qualifications.

Duties of Deacons:

- (1) Be a servant of this church.
- (2) Guard the unity of this church.
- (3) Stand ready to serve the pastor and this church concerning the welfare, ministry, and the needs of this church, including assistance in the observance of the ordinances.
- (4) Establish and maintain spiritual fraternal relations with all members of the church.
- (5) Minister to the spiritual needs of the church body.
- (6) Arrange for regular meetings and such committees as are necessary to the discharge of their duties, and actively serve and provide spiritual leadership to committees to which they are appointed.
- (7) Consider and make recommendations to the church in all matters pertaining to its work and progress, including oversight of the discipline of the church.

Method of Selection:

The number of deacons shall be such that there is at least one active deacon for every 20 families in the church. (The number of active deacons shall be considered to be the average number of deacons in attendance at deacons' meetings for the past 12 months who also regularly attend worship services).

- (1) Each year, the deacon chairman and pastor, or his designee, shall review the current attendance information and determine the number of new deacons needed.
- (2) Any person who meets the qualifications of a deacon may be elected.
- (3) To assure that qualified deacons are available in the event a need exists to add to the body of deacons, a Yokefellow Program may be utilized to train prospective deacons.
 - a) Yokefellow candidates will be recruited from the church body for this program
 - b) Candidates for this program will visit with the deacon body to give testimony of their conversion experience and their beliefs regarding the Holy Scriptures and the articles of faith.
 - c) The body of deacons shall select nominees to receive the training.
- (4) The deacon body will present those Yokefellows, who have proven themselves to have spiritual qualifications, to the church at a meeting called for the purpose of calling deacons.
- (5) Ordained deacons who have transferred to this church from a church or like faith and order will be presented along with other qualified candidates, to the church at a meeting called for the purpose of calling deacons.

- (6) Notice of the meeting shall be given to all members at least one (1) week prior to the meeting, which notice includes the names of the nominees.
- (7) The names of all nominees shall be placed on the ballot, and voting shall be by secret ballot. The church will then proceed to elect the required number from the list of nominees. A sufficient number of counters unrelated to the nominees will be appointed by the pastor to tally the votes.
- (8) Ordination of new deacons called shall be within (30) days of the election.
- (9) The deacons shall elect annually their own chairman.

Accountability, Responsibility: Out of concern for church harmony and effectiveness, it is vital that all deacons fulfill these qualifications and duties. Frequent violations of these qualifications and/or failure to perform these duties by any deacon shall be subject to the loving confrontation by the deacon officers.