

## Deacon Nomination and Selection Timeline

- **April 11:** Announce to the congregation that we are accepting nominations for deacons with the communication of the responsibilities and eligibility of being deacons.
- **April 12-28:** Review by elders of nominations in terms of ensuring those nominated are willing to serve, and with respect to biblical qualifications, gifting etc.
- **April 29:** Elders' day of prayer per the By-Laws
- **May 2:** Presentation of the candidates to the church covenant members and congregation
- **May 16:** Vote on the candidates
- **May 23:** Installation of the new deacons

## Nomination Process

Individuals may nominate themselves or other **covenant members** of the church. Prior confirmation with those nominated is not required. The elders will follow up with each nominee directly to confirm willingness to serve and qualifications. Existing deacons are welcome to serve again but must be re-nominated for consideration. All nominations need to be received by **April 28<sup>th</sup>**. Nominations can be emailed to any of the elders:

Steve Brown: [steve@hopechristianchurch.org](mailto:steve@hopechristianchurch.org)

Todd Cravens: [todd@hopechristianchurch.org](mailto:todd@hopechristianchurch.org)

David Gonzales: [davidg@hopechristianchurch.org](mailto:davidg@hopechristianchurch.org)

Iain Whitfield: [iain@hopechristianchurch.org](mailto:iain@hopechristianchurch.org)

## Our Leadership – Deacons\*

In spring 2015, for the first time, we nominated a team of deacons. Scripture refers to the appointment of deacons to undertake certain responsibilities to serve the church and to free elders to fulfill their specifically mandated roles and responsibilities within the church.

The word "deacon" is a transliteration, not translation, of the Greek word *διάκονος* (*diakonos*). Some scholars prefer to use the word "minister" or "servant" rather than "deacon" but both of these terms need modifiers to better explain the role. Hence, though foreign in today's culture, most English translations and church governing documents use the term "deacon." The root meaning of the word is waiter, servant, or administrator [3]. The New Testament incorporates the idea of deaconship as being both an *office* and a *work/service to perform*. A deacon must meet certain specific qualifications in order to hold the office (1 Timothy 3:8-13 and Acts 6:3), which qualify the deacon to perform the work/service (e.g., Acts 6:1-3 and Romans 16:1-2).

Deacons were appointed for different reasons, but in general, it seems that the work of deacons was to meet practical, material needs in order to enable the elders to focus on spiritual matters. For example, in Acts 6:1-5 deacons were appointed to care for the physical welfare of needy Gentile believers so that the elders could focus on prayer and the study and teaching of Scripture. One important result of this was to help maintain unity within the church. Over time many churches have migrated into establishing deacons merely as administrators that cover the operations of the church. However, in view of Acts 6:1-5, Romans 16:1-2, and

\* Taken from the, *Hope Christian Church New Member Handbook*, pg. 19-20.

the qualifications for deacons required by Scripture (1 Timothy 3:8-13), it is evident that more was expected from deacons than just administrative duty.

It's important to note that elders can perform all the functions of the deacons; in fact, the apostle Paul even periodically referred to himself as a deacon (e.g., 2 Corinthians 3:6). However, the converse is not true; i.e., deacons cannot perform all of the functions of an elder. Deacons are subordinate to and not independent of the leadership of the elders.

## Qualification of Deacons\*

The qualifications for deacons are articulated in 1 Timothy 3:8-13, which is the passage cited as the qualifying criteria for HCC deacons within Article V of the HCC By-Laws:

*Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain. They must hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. Their wives likewise must be dignified, not slanderers, but sober-minded, faithful in all things. Let deacons each be the husband of one wife, managing their children and their own households well. For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.*

It's important to note that some of these qualifications for deacons are similar to those articulated as qualifications of an elder. The issue of female deacons has caused, and continues to cause, division within the church of Jesus Christ. At Hope we believe that women can be called into the role of deacon.

## Specific Ministry Roles of Deacons

Many of you may be familiar with the role of our deacons to open and close our facility on Sunday mornings and lead our church in Town Day participation. However, during this next term of deacon service we will revisit more opportunities for deacons to serve according to their gifts and passions. This will involve coordinating with current ministry team leaders and working together to revisit the model of lay leadership at the church.

\* Taken from the, *Hope Christian Church New Member Handbook*, pg. 19-20.