



## CrossWay Community Church

### Deacon Recommendation Form

Current members of CrossWay Community Church are urged to participate in the identification of deacons. Diaconate ministry includes a wide array of “lead servant” opportunities such as, but not limited to, ministry leadership, organizing/mobilizing volunteers, counsel/care/visitation, outreach/evangelism, building maintenance & custodian services, special events & event planning, music/sound/media/social media, benevolence/mercy ministry, administration, children’s ministry, greeters, ushers, hospitality & security.

Members making recommendations should be regular participants in church life and be in good standing with the church (not in a church discipline process). **To recommend a deacon candidate, please follow the instructions on the back of this form.** If the elder(s) believe an additional deacon will serve the church’s needs well, the candidate will be evaluated to confirm he fulfills the requirements outlined in 1 Timothy 3:8-13 and that he is competent in the tasks/ministries for which he is being considered. If a candidate’s character & competence commend him and the church’s need aligns well, the candidate will be invited to consider deacon ministry.

**Note:**

- You are not required to speak with the person you are nominating before submitting his name. The elder(s) will approach the candidate as outlined above.
- A person can nominate himself, provided he follows the instructions on the back of this form.
- Complete the bottom of this page and send your deacon nominations to **info@crosswayfl.org**.

**Your name:**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have read & completed the instructions on the back of this form.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have prayerfully meditated on the qualifications for deacons in 1 Timothy 3:8-13.

**Name of individual being recommended:**

Area(s) of service & competence:

Why do you think this person is suited for this particular area of ministry?

In your estimation does the person qualify for diaconate ministry according to 1 Timothy 3:8-13? How so?

As a member in good standing at CrossWay, you may recommend a deacon candidate, provided you believe he meets the biblical qualifications in 1 Tim. 3:8-13 and can fulfill the lead servant role of deacon described below. Before you submit a candidate's name, please do the following:

1. Read and prayerfully consider everything on this page. Does the man you have in mind fit the role?
2. Prayerfully meditate on 1 Timothy 3:8-13 which lists the biblical qualifications for deacons.
3. Using the front page of this form, recommend the man you believe meets the biblical qualifications **AND** specify what roles he is competent to fulfill. Be sure to include both name and ministry competence.

Matt Smethurst writes, "a congregation without biblically functioning deacons is impoverished, but a congregation with them is incalculably rich."<sup>1</sup> The Greek noun *diakonos* appears 21 times in the New Testament. Only 3 times does the ESV translate *diakonos* as "deacon," and the NIV, only 4 times. The other 18 times *diakonos* is translated as "**servant**" or "minister." The verb form of *diakonos* translates as "those who **serve**," "let them **serve**," and the like. Clearly, according to the Bible, deacons are servants and must have the heart of a servant!

As lead servants, deacons are ready, willing, and able to serve above and beyond the call, and deacons protect and maintain church unity. Deacons see needs and strategize to resolve those needs. They oversee practical daily matters like benevolence (mercy ministry to the needy, impoverished, imprisoned, persecuted), maintenance of church property, organization and mobilization of ministry volunteers, administration, planning of events, etc.

Read Exodus 18:13-27 and Acts 6:1-7, and note the importance of delegation to the success of God's people and the proclamation of God's Word. Smethurst says that "deacons wrongly deployed can halve your ministry, but deacons rightly deployed can double it. . . . Deacons are difference-makers . . . [by] assisting the elders, guarding the ministry of the Word, organizing service, caring for the needy, preserving unity, mobilizing ministry, and more."<sup>2</sup>

Because deacons take responsibility to facilitate a variety of practical ministries, they free up elders for prayer, ministry of the Word, and oversight of the church — and thus, the Word increases, and the disciples multiply. Smethurst describes deacons "like a congregation's offensive linemen, whose job is to protect the quarterback. They rarely get attention, much less credit, but their labors are utterly indispensable for both guarding and advancing the ministry of the Word. Without effective deacons, elders will suffer incessant distraction and get sacked by an onrush of practical demands."<sup>3</sup> Deacons who know and love what being a deacon entails delight in relieving pastors from the practical tasks of the church, deflecting interruptions, so that the elders can direct their energies to the ministry of the Word, prayer, and to the spiritual oversight of the church.

One might say "elders focus on gospel proclamation while deacons focus on gospel demonstration." Both are gospel priorities, so it is vitally important that only gifted and qualified men are ordained into the only two biblical church offices. Deacons hold a public office and may be entrusted with church resources or have access to the vulnerable and needy. Therefore, God establishes a number of qualifications for deacons (1 Tim. 3:8-13). This protects the vulnerable, the deacons, the reputation of the church, and most importantly, God's Name.

H.B. Charles Jr. writes, "Elders serve by leading. Deacons lead by serving." A healthy framework for the church body is elders leading and equipping for ministry, deacons facilitating and mobilizing ministry, and congregations responding by doing ministry. Acts 6:3 says to choose "men of good repute, full of the Spirit, and wisdom." Deacons follow elder leadership, but note, the Apostles do not tell the seven servants how to do the job or solve the problem. Deacons need good reputations, Spirit-empowerment, and wisdom to recognize problems and solve them, to keep the peace and build unity in the church, to be shock absorbers for the elders, and to mobilize teams to get ministry accomplished.

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<sup>1</sup> Matt Smethurst, *Deacons*, (Crossway, 2021), 24.

<sup>2</sup> Smethurst, 20-21.

<sup>3</sup> Smethurst, 75-76.