

## Deacons at Parkway

*And let them also be tested first; then let them serve as deacons if they prove themselves blameless. – 1 Timothy 3:10*

The role of deacon is an invaluable one in the church. In Scripture, the Lord set forward a path for the church to walk upon to ensure those put in places held in higher regard align with His biblical standard and are a reason for blessing for the church on for the one who serves. The call to examine is not laden with fault-finding. Instead, it is an opportunity to seek, know, and grow for those engaging in the process: both the one (or couple) being examined and the one mentor(s) who walks through the examination with him.

1. Initiate a 3-week time of prayer and name submission by the church. Beginning with a Sermon on “what Scripture tells us about the person and role of deacons.”
2. Following this period, the Deacon Body will enter a time of prayer and fasting over the names submitted, and the names given will be checked for basic criteria of active membership.
3. The Deacon Body will discuss and recommend a group of men to be contacted for their availability/willingness to serve.
4. Out of those men who indicate availability and willingness, the Deacon Body will identify a portion of them to be invited to a season of testing.
5. Season of Examination:
  - **Guidelines:** The goal is to provide appropriate Biblical Examination to help the Deacon Body, and those nominated, to determine if this is the right season for them to enter the role of Deacon. If it is not, it will also provide clear markers for men to strive towards and open a door for Deacon mentorship in the future.
  - **A Season of Examination:**
    - **Parts of this process:**
      - **(Core Doctrine)** Holding to the Faith with a Clear Conscience
        - Provide a guided study (Christian Beliefs – Grudem) for a deacon nominee and deacon to walk through together.

- To ensure foundational faith markers are in alignment with Scripture that allows for a thorough examination of a nominee’s clear understanding of the Faith.
    - To ensure that a deacon has an opportunity to create markers of growth or understanding a nominee may need to mature in their understanding before serving as a deacon.
  - **(Qualifications)** Deacons (and wives)
    - Provide a guided study for a deacon nominee and their wife (if married) to complete while providing a conversational examination of the nominee and ensure clear expectations and God-honoring accountability in these areas of a deacon’s life.
  - **(Duties)** Deacon on Purpose
    - Provide a guided study for a deacon to understand the roles and responsibilities of a deacon and create a clear and encouraging environment of examination and communication around these duties.
    - **Timeline:** There is no official timeline, but rushing this process would be to drop our biblical responsibility to test deacons. An absolute minimum would be 3-4 months, a “normal” timeframe maybe 6-9 months, but could easily extend beyond that timeframe depending on the deacon nominee’s engagement and need in each area.
6. Upon a nominee’s conclusion of a season of testing, the Deacon Body will meet with nominees, no more than 2 at a time, for a time of fellowship, encouragement, and inquiry as a body.
  7. The Deacon Body may present nominees 2 at a time, or set a date to present multiple nominees, before the church at a special ordination service.
    - During this presentation, the recommendation of no more than 4 men at a time, the men will:
      - Present their confession:
        - testimony as a Christian (holding to the faith)
        - share their understanding of the role of a deacon (duties)

- commitment to the biblical standards of life and leadership (qualifications)
- The Deacon body will then lay hands on the deacon, and those present in the church will be invited to surround and join them in prayer.