

## Proposed Bylaw Changes – January 18, 2026

Current Bylaws (changes highlighted)	Proposed Bylaws
(iv) Role of Deacons. In keeping with the meaning of the work and practice in the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. <b>They are not a governing board of directors, nor or they a powerless entity.</b> Their business is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing <b>the ministerial tasks of:</b>	(iv) Role of Deacons. In keeping with the meaning of the work and practice in the New Testament, deacons are to be servants of the church. Their business is to serve with the pastor and staff in performing ministerial tasks including:
(A) Leading the church in the achievement of its mission;	Unchanged
(B) Proclaiming the gospel to believers and unbelievers, teaching them, and baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, as commanded by the Great Commission of Jesus Christ;	Unchanged
(C) Caring for the church's members and others in the community;	Unchanged
(D) <b>Supervising and counseling the senior pastor by and through dialogue and periodic reviews, at least annually, to address issues of pastoral performance and accountability.</b>	Removed
(E) <b>Serving and acting as a representative of the church congregation in circumstances of grievances and/or pastoral accountability.</b>	Removed
(F) Participating enthusiastically in the ministries and programs of the church which the individual deacon feels called by God. Deacons are to be ministry-minded.	Heading changed to reflect new position
(G) Conducting regular meetings. Such meetings shall be called only by the deacon body and cancelled only by the deacon body.	Heading changed to reflect new position

# Explanations

## (iv) Role of Deacons

Nowhere in the New Testament are deacons referred to as a governing body or powerful entity (outside of potentially having oversight of the physical-needs ministries they were a part of (depending on the interpretation of Acts 6 and other passages where the office of deacon *may* be in mind). Therefore, the statement “They are not a governing board of directors, nor or they a powerless entity.” has been removed.

The language around the business of the deacon has been left more open-ended than just the specific tasks/functions listed out in the bylaws. Deacons are servants who take care of physical ministry needs as they arise, so language has been extended to be inclusive of other tasks/functions/needs.

## (D) Supervising and counseling the senior pastor...

God has not instructed deacons to supervise, review, or have any authority over any pastor anywhere in scripture. This function has been removed.

## (E) Serving and acting as a representative of the church...

God has given us a prescribed method of dealing with circumstances or grievances and accountability in scripture.

As in Matthew 18, anyone who wishes to address an issue of accountability (in this case, sin) is commanded by God to go to the offender (in this case the pastor) and address that sin in order to hold the other party accountable and pursue repentance and reconciliation. In the event more is needed, the person is commanded to “take one or two others along with [them]” (Mt 18:16) in order that the charge may be evidenced by two or three witnesses. Deacons are not *excluded* from the potential “others,” but they are not called out specifically either. Lastly, the charge must be brought before the entire church.

The pattern for dealing with grievance and accountability in the Kingdom of God is for both parties to deal with it personally in relationship. There is no provision in the New Testament for deacons to act as representatives of the congregation in matters of grievance or accountability and so the section has been removed.