

Deacon for Discipleship and Formation

General Charge for the Role of Deacon within Christ's Church:

- 1) Spotting and Meeting Tangible Needs
- 2) Protecting and Promoting Church Unity
- 3) Serving and Supporting the Elders

Overview:

The "Deacon for Discipleship and Formation" plays a pivotal role in the spiritual growth and development of a church community that SEE, BE, GIVE, and GO. This deacon is tasked with overseeing and supporting initiatives aimed at deepening the faith of church members, fostering a culture of lifelong learning, and equipping individuals to live out their Christian faith more fully.

Key Responsibilities:

1. Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

The primary responsibility of a deacon for discipleship and formation is to coordinate efforts that foster spiritual growth among church members. This includes utilizing the C!Discipleship Pathway to create opportunities for individuals to deepen their understanding of Scripture, strengthen their relationship with God, and grow in both personal and communal faith. The deacon works closely with the Pastoral Team, especially the champion of the BE Branch.

2. Developing and Implementing Formation Programs

This role involves designing and facilitating programs that support Christian formation at all stages of life. These programs begin with LifeGroups, C!Youth, and C!Station, and could include classes, workshops, retreats, or seminars that focus on Bible study, theology, prayer, worship, and Christian living. The deacon for discipleship and formation ensures that these programs are relevant, biblically grounded, and accessible to people at different levels of spiritual maturity.

3. Equipping Church Members for Service

As part of the discipleship process, the deacon helps equip church members to serve in ministry both within the church and in the broader community. This generally involves working in coordination with the Pastoral Team and other Deacons. It might also involve developing leadership training, teaching about spiritual gifts, and providing tools and resources for effective ministry. The deacon encourages church members to understand their unique roles in God's mission and to actively engage in service.

4. Facilitating Small Groups and Mentorship

Small groups, esp. LifeGroups, play a significant role in personal discipleship and community building. The deacon for discipleship and formation may oversee or coordinate small group ministries, ensuring that these groups foster genuine fellowship, prayer, and accountability. They assist in communications and logistics for LifeGroups.

5. Promoting Lifelong Learning

The deacon encourages a culture of continuous spiritual education and personal development. This includes promoting the importance of regular Bible study, personal devotions, theological education, and participation in Christian seminars or conferences. The deacon may provide resources, recommend books or online courses, and create avenues for members to deepen their biblical and theological understanding.

6. Supporting Worship and Liturgical Practices

Since discipleship is deeply connected to worship, the deacon for discipleship and formation may also support the church's worship ministry. This includes ensuring that the worship experience aligns with the goal of spiritual formation, helping church members connect more deeply with God through song, prayer, teaching, and communion. The deacon may collaborate with worship leaders to create environments conducive to spiritual growth.

7. Fostering Accountability and Community

Spiritual growth often happens best in community. By enabling and encouraging LifeGroups and similar opportunities, the deacon plays an integral role in fostering a culture of mutual care, accountability, and support within the church. They may implement structures for accountability (e.g., discipleship groups, peer mentorship) to help individuals stay on track in their walk with Christ. This role helps ensure that the church is a place where members encourage one another in their faith.

8. Helping Integrate Faith into Daily Life

Discipleship is not confined to church activities but extends into all aspects of life. The deacon for discipleship and formation, along with the Deacon for Community Engagement seeks to help church members understand how to integrate their faith into their workplaces, homes, relationships, and communities. This may involve facilitating teaching on topics like Christian ethics, relationships, work, and how to live out the gospel in a secular world, whether through LifeGroups, C!Discipleship Pathway content, or special events.

9. Personal Discipleship and Mentoring

In addition to leading group programs, the deacon may take a personal role in mentoring individuals, offering one-on-one discipleship for spiritual direction, counseling, and prayer. By

offering personal attention, the deacon ensures that church members have the support they need to grow in their walk with Christ.

10. Evaluating and Adapting Discipleship Efforts

The deacon for discipleship and formation also plays a role in evaluating the effectiveness of discipleship programs and spiritual formation efforts. This involves seeking feedback from church members, observing spiritual growth within the congregation, and adjusting programs or strategies to meet the evolving needs of the church.