REDEEMER BIBLE CHURCH STAFFORD

Deacons at RBC Stafford

Who and what is a deacon?
According to the Bible, a deacon is a member of the local church who is called by God, biblically qualified, equipped and appointed by the congregation to serve as a leading servant within the church. This is one of two church offices specified in Scripture and is open to both men and women who are set apart in this particular role. In this capacity, a deacon serves to unify the body under the spiritual leadership of the elders while identifying and meeting the practical needs of the congregation.

The office of deacon is <u>not</u>:

- a stepping-stone to elder, although a deacon can become an elder.
- a reward or title granted primarily based on physical talent or skill.
- an enabled "police officer" of the church to keep elders, teachers, and members in line.

What are the qualifications for a deacon?
The foundational biblical passage that provides the qualifications for a deacon are found in 1st Timothy 3:8-13. At a minimum, a deacon <u>must</u> be:

Dignified	Of a clear conscience
Spiritually mature and tested	Good managers of their household
Blameless	Sober minded
Faithful in all things	

Additionally**,** a deacon <u>must not</u> be:

Double tongued	Dishonest
Addicted to alcohol	Devious
Greedy	

What does a deacon do?

1. Unifies the Church

Deacons play a primary role in fostering unity among members of the church, working to maintain harmony and a spirit of cooperation under the leadership of the elders.

2. Identifies and Meets Physical Needs of the Church

Deacons are tasked with recognizing and addressing the practical and material needs of the congregation, ensuring members are seen, supported and cared for.

3. Organizes and Leverages Resources

Deacons coordinate the church's resources to effectively provide care for the congregation and the surrounding community.

What does it look like to be a deacon at RBC Stafford?

1. Proactively serve others in the church for God's glory and the good of His image bearers.
2. Oversee the Benevolence Ministry requests, assistance provided, and funds distributed.
3. Manage the logistical and administrative requirements of church mission trips.
4. Support the Orphan Care Ministry.
5. Lead the setup and tear-down process for our weekly Sunday morning worship gatherings.
6. Seek ways to support and serve our host school (currently Winding Creek Elementary).
7. Collaborate and cooperate with other deacons to wisely identify needs in the church and community and formulate appropriate responses.
8. Work alongside and in harmony with the elders by communicating congregational needs and actions taken in response.
9. Maintain the church facility and equipment.

In short, deacons assist the elders by meeting needs in the life of the church. They unleash the Word of God by allowing the elders to focus on praying, teaching, and governing. By doing so, deacons foster church unity and encourage love for one another.