



POLICY ON DEACON NOMINATION

NOTE: On September 26, 2007, the Congregation approved two recommendations from the Deacon Nominating Committee, which recommendations were previously approved by the Deacons. These recommendations are as follows:

1. To establish an additional standing position on the Deacon Nominating Committee for the First Vice-Chairman of the Deacons to serve as a voting member for one year.
2. To change the name of the Deacon category presently called "Inactive" Deacon to "Reserve" Deacon to better describe the service expected of the Deacon when he is not an "Active" Deacon.

The effect of these recommendations is reflected in the following Policy on Deacon Nomination.

A. Nominations and Procedures:

1. The Deacon Nominating Committee shall be composed of ten persons, three of whom shall be selected each year, each for a 3-year term, with the Chairman of the Deacons to nominate a man, the Pastor to nominate a man, and the President of the WMU to nominate a woman. In addition, each year the First Vice Chairman of the Deacons will serve a one-year term on the Deacon Nominating Committee. The three nominees shall be submitted to the Church, along with any additional nominees from the floor, for election to the Committee. The Committee shall be composed of ten persons, including the First Vice Chairman of the Deacons, with three persons rotating off each year and three persons being elected each year. Any vacancy that occurs on the Committee between the annual election, shall be filled by appointment by the Chairman of the Deacons after consulting with the Pastor and the President of the WMU. Appointments to the Deacon Nominating Committee should be made after much thoughtful prayer and should take into consideration age, knowledge of the Church and Church membership, quality of spiritual life, financial support of the Church, and participation in Church activities and that those appointed should display all the characteristics that one should expect of a Deacon. The members of the Deacon Nominating Committee should sign commitment statements similar to that signed by nominated Deacons. All individuals appointed to the Deacon Nominating Committee should have been members of the Church at least ten years in order to be knowledgeable enough about church activities to be well acquainted with the general membership of the Church.

Amended May 24, 1989 and
September 26, 2007

2. The Chairman of the Deacons shall be responsible for securing the names of the three nominees and presenting the same to the Church on or before the first Wednesday in February of each year.

Amended March 11, 1987

3. The Chairman of the Deacons shall be responsible to see that the first Committee meeting of the Deacon Nominating Committee shall be scheduled no later than the first week in March of each year.

Amended March 11, 1987

4. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of Deacons to set the time and place of the first meeting, to notify the members of the Committee of such meeting, and to act as temporary Chairman to convene the meeting and conduct the election of a Chairman of the Committee. The election of the Chairman shall be conducted by allowing each member of the Committee to nominate in writing by secret ballot the person of his choice for the Chairman. If any one person receives more than one-half of the votes cast, he/she shall be the Chairman. If no person receives a majority vote, the two people with the most votes shall constitute the ballot for the next election. The second ballot shall also be by secret ballot with the Committee members writing their choice of the two people as Chairman. The Chairman, when elected, shall proceed with the election of a Vice Chairman and a Secretary of the Committee.
5. The Committee shall next determine the time and place and frequency of future meetings and adopt such procedures as it chooses toward the selection of the Deacons to be nominated by it for the current year.

B. Guidelines and Principles:

1. Basic and prime consideration shall be given to the spiritual requirements for a Deacon, and these requirements shall be traditionally read and kept before the Deacon Nominating Committee at all times in the selection of Deacons.
2. A general requirement for consideration as a Deacon shall be that a person to be elected as a Deacon of First Baptist Church shall be a member of this church for a minimum of four years as of January 1 of the year his term begins. If he has been a member for a total of four years, but not consecutively, he must have been a member for the two previous years. If he was here and moved away, he is eligible after two years.

Amended April 18, 1984

3. Rotated off (Reserve) Deacons shall be considered first for reelection to the active Deaconship prior to considering persons who have not been previously ordained or prior to considering persons not previously ordained in the First Baptist Church, Jackson, Mississippi. It shall not be mandatory that any one Reserve Deacon be returned to the Active Deaconship; nevertheless, the list of eligible Deacons of this Church, who have previously served as Active Deacons, shall be considered before other previously unordained persons are considered or before other persons ordained in other churches will be considered. However, the same care shall be exercised for renomination as for initial nomination.
4. The Chairman of the Committee shall be responsible for the following:
 - a. having notice placed in the Church publications, along with appropriate announcements made from the pulpit, that the Committee is receiving nominations for the current year
 - b. requesting that the nominations for Deacons be submitted on the printed form provided for nominations which sets out the type of information which will be helpful to the Committee, which form may be amended yearly to include any additional information the Committee would find helpful or exclude information found not to be of some particular help.
5. The Committee shall nominate sufficient persons to fill all vacancies in order that there will be one hundred twenty (120) Active Deacons, with forty (40) Deacons rotating off each year. Frequently, in order to fill vacancies that have occurred, it is necessary to select Deacons who have a term of one or two years to serve. In some cases, these short terms have been filled by men approaching sixty-five (65) years of age who will be eligible to become Life Deacons. All Deacons, regardless of age, should serve one full three-year rotation before being considered for elevation to Life Deacon.

Amended May 24, 1989

6. Any man who has served as a Deacon of First Baptist Church, Jackson for a minimum period of thirty (30) years, including Reserve periods, or who reaches the age of sixty-five (65) years and has served as least three (3) years as an Active Deacon of First Baptist Church, Jackson, is eligible to be considered for Life Deacon status.

Amended April 1994

7. All Deacons, Life, Active and Reserve, unless prevented by health reasons, are expected and encouraged to serve the Church to the best of their ability and to dedicate their time and talents to the Lord. They are expected to be particularly conscious of their responsibility with regard to attendance and participation in all Deacons meetings, Sunday School and Church Development activities, and worship services of the Church. They are expected to support the budget and programs of the Church. The selected Deacons shall have a deep personal commitment and dedication to our Lord and His Church. At the time any person is nominated for initial service as a Deacon, nominated for reactivation from Reserve status, or nominated for Life status, the Committee shall inform each Deacon so nominated that such a commitment is a prerequisite for nomination. All Deacons eligible for Life status shall be nominated by the Committee and approved by the Church before becoming Life Deacons, except for each immediate past Chairman of Deacons, who is automatically elevated to life status. The Committee shall thoroughly consider each person nominated and discuss each nominee with Sunday School leadership, the senior ministerial staff, and others who have been involved with the nominee in other church activities. The Committee shall be satisfied that any Reserve Deacon being considered for reactivation has previously fulfilled his commitment as a Deacon faithfully and that the individual will live up to his commitment, as signed on the appropriate form, during the coming term.

As Amended May 24, 1989

8. A Deacon who is fulfilling a term as an Active Deacon, but who does not continue in the fellowship of this Church, shall be moved to Reserve status as of the next January 1. If this condition has existed for two years, his name shall be removed from Reserve status also.

Adopted by the Congregation
May 3, 1978