

## Job Description For Deacon of IHELP

### *Background*

We start by pointing out the obvious: the church belongs to Christ. We are his flock, and he provides for our care through elders who are responsible to preach and teach the word, to pray, and to provide spiritual oversight to the congregation. This means that the elders are responsible for seeing to the overall direction of the church. This leadership extends to providing vision and direction to the individual ministries within the church. Deacons support this overall leadership by serving in ways that free the elders to focus on their God given responsibilities for preaching, teaching, prayer and oversight.

### *Job Description*

The IHELP ministry is one of providing periodic lodging for members of the homeless community in Tempe. However, it is more than that. The people who support the IHELP ministry also provide love and grace to individuals who are homeless as they walk through life.

The deacon who serves the IHELP ministry will have the responsibility of ensuring that the building is opened up, cared for, and then locked again when the program is on our church property. This deacon will also interact with representatives from the Tempe Community Action Agency (TCAA) and other churches who provide meals for the ministry. Although this deacon may do the work themselves on some occasions, it is expected that they will regularly involve others in the ministry. By engaging with others involved in the ministry, the deacon encourages people to use their talents and gifts for the benefit of others to the glory of God. Additionally, those who are served are pointed towards Christ through the proclamation of the gospel.

There will be periodic reviews of the deacon's ministry. We have said in other places that our motto as deacons should be *Semper Reformanda* – always reforming – and the reviews provide a means to ensure that we are improving effectiveness within our ministry areas.

Since the deacon is working with the “nuts and bolts” of the ministry, it is expected that the deacon will be looking for ways to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the ministry. While the deacon is not responsible for defining the vision of the ministry, they will be seeing needs from a different perspective and should wisely speak to the elders regarding both vision and implementation.