

## General Service Description For Deacons of Preschool, Children, Youth, and College

### 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.

When a particular ministry area is led by a staff director, the elders still set the overall vision for that ministry, and then the director implements that vision in practical, substantive ways.

### Job Description

The deacon(s) will assist the director in implementing the vision and ensuring the health of the ministry. Mature, wise deacons are vital to a healthy church. It is assumed that the exact nature of the assistance will be a function of the overall ministry, and the talents and spiritual gifts of the director and the deacon.

The deacon will be expected to involve others to accomplish ministry within their area. By involving others, the deacon provides a double benefit to the church. They encourage people within the body to use their talents and gifts for the benefit of others to the glory of God. Thus, the one who is serving grows in their faith, while at the same time, the ones who are served are pointed toward Christ.

There will be periodic reviews of the deacon's ministry. We have said in other places that our motto 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 vision, they also will be seeing needs from a different perspective and should wisely speak to the elders regarding the vision of the ministry.