

Qualifications of an Active Bellevue Deacon

"It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do. An overseer, then, must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not addicted to wine or pugnacious, but gentle, peaceable, free from the love of money. He must be one who manages his own household well, keeping his children under control with all dignity (but if a man does not know how to manage his own household, how will he take care of the church of God?), and not a new convert, so that he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil. And he must have a good reputation with those outside the church, so that he will not fall into reproach and the snare of the devil. Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach."

1 Timothy 3:1–10^{NASB®}

To serve the Lord Jesus in the office of deacon at Bellevue Baptist Church is, at the same time, a great honor and a great responsibility.

The very word "deacon" means servant. Which does not demean or lower an individual. To the contrary, Jesus said, *"And whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave"* (Matthew 20:27^{NASB®}). Service exalts.

Individual Qualifications

1. Acts 6:3 says the church should select and elect Spirit-filled men. A Spirit-filled man is one whose life is controlled and dominated by the Holy Spirit.
2. He should, therefore, set a high standard of separated and holy Christian living. A deacon should not consume alcoholic beverages, use nicotine or other addictive substances, or participate in questionable amusements.
3. The deacon would be expected to give a tithe (one-tenth) of his income for the work of Christ through the local church. This is a standard. *"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse so that there may be food in My house, and test Me now in this," says the Lord of hosts, 'if I will not open for you the windows of heaven, and pour out for you a blessing until it overflows.'"* Malachi 3:10^{NASB®}
4. The deacon's family life should be an example. He should be the husband of one wife and must guide and lead his children and his own house well. Neither husband nor wife has been previously married, unless by death of spouse.
5. The deacon and his wife should both have an exemplary and genuine testimony for Jesus Christ.
6. Bellevue requires that a man be a member of the church for at least two years prior to the time of his election to the deacon body.

Service

1. Because he is a leader, as well as a servant, he should be active and faithful in support of all major areas of church life.
2. A deacon should believe the great doctrines of the church, as set forth in the Word of God and the *Baptist Faith and Message* (adopted by the Southern Baptist Convention June 14, 2000).
3. The deacon is one who helps create and preserve harmony in the church. He should be able to have and maintain the reputation of keeping in confidence those things which should not be discussed openly. He should be wise and discreet.
4. He should see that his duty is to lift up the hands of the Pastor and to work positively and with loyalty under the Pastor's leadership. He is to free the Pastor to do the work God has called the Pastor to do.

2021

Deacon Nomination

