

CBA1

Church Business Administration Network LLC

Churches In Transition - CIT (Sight) Ministry

Ministry Position Cross Training: **The Diaconate (Deacon/Deaconess) Ministry**

Monday, May 5 & 19, 2025 @ 12:00N & 6PM (EDT)

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The “Task” of Diaconate Leadership

Acts 6:3 (Message Translation)

“We’ll assign them this task.”

*¹ During this time, as the disciples were increasing in numbers by leaps and bounds, hard feelings developed among the Greek-speaking believers—“Hellenists”—toward the Hebrew-speaking believers because their widows were being discriminated against in the daily food lines. ² So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. ³ So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and **we’ll assign them this task.** ⁴ Meanwhile, we’ll stick to our assigned tasks of prayer and speaking God’s Word.”*

Common “Tasks” of the Diaconate in the Church

- Overseeing the Church’s Budget
- Approving Money Requisitions & Writing Checks
- Managing Church Staff
- Supervising & Evaluating the Work of the Pastor
- Congregational Care (Caring for the Spiritual Needs of the Membership)
- Ministry Participation (i.e. Choir, Men’s, Women, etc.)
- Facilities Care & Management (i.e. Opening & Closing the Church Building)
- Leading Church/Business Meetings

Biblical “Tasks” of the Diaconate in the Church

- Overseeing the Church’s Budget
- Approving Money Requisitions & Writing Checks
- Managing Church Staff
- Supervising & Evaluating the Work of the Pastor
- Congregational Care (Caring for the Spiritual Needs of the Membership)
- Ministry Participation (i.e. Choir, Men’s, Women, etc.)
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The “Task” of Diaconate Leadership in Acts 6

Reasons Why the Diaconate Ministry was Created (Acts 6:1)

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

1. The _____ of the Jerusalem Church had _____.
2. The number of _____ following Christ began to _____.
3. The members were _____ (Hellenistic and Hebraic Jews).
4. The members began _____ against each other.
5. The widows were intentionally and purposefully being _____ by the _____.

Cliques & Factions

“Cliques” and “factions” are formed when...

- People group themselves based up on their _____ and _____ towards _____.

Cliques & Factions (cont'd.)

- _____ rather than _____ are emphasized in social settings.
- _____ are used to determine who is “fit” to be _____ and _____ from a particular group.

“Cliques” and “factions” are formed in a church and denominational setting when one or more people _____ themselves in _____, but refuse to use their leadership to promote _____ within the Body of Christ.

Harmony

Your _____ to allow others to _____ the people and things you _____ with.

The “Task” of Caring for Factions, Divisions, & Cliques in the Acts 6 Jerusalem Church

The Apostles in the Jerusalem Church were trying to unite and minister to a church that was divided into two cliques.

The 2 Divisions, Factions, and Cliques of Members in the Church of Jerusalem

_____ Jews

_____ Jews

The _____, Aramaic Speaking “Clique” in the Jerusalem Church

1. The _____ People: The initial inhabitants of Israel.
2. “The O.G.’s”: The original, _____ of the Acts 6 church.
3. Original Language: Spoke the “native tongue” of _____ as a language.
4. In Charge: Controlled the distribution of the _____ in the church in Jerusalem.
5. Biased & Unjust: _____ the distribution of ministry resources from the _____, _____ in the church.

The _____, Greek Speaking “Clique” in the Jerusalem Church

1. “_____”: They settled in Jerusalem, but _____
Jerusalem.
2. “Foreign Tongued”: They spoke _____ as a language when the Hebraic
Jews spoke Aramaic.
3. “Different”: Their ways of _____ were Greek.
4. “Visitors”: They had their own _____ (i.e. the Synagogue of the
Freedmen in Acts 6:9)
5. “Cliquish”: Associated with people from their own _____,
_____, and _____

The Different Types of Factions & “Cliques” that Can Exist in a Church Culture

Biased or Unbiased towards different members based on their groups and “cliques” in the church?

1. In-Person ____ On-Line
2. Tithers ____ Non-Tithers
3. Original Members ____ “Newcomers”
4. Members ____ Cousins (Guests)
5. Ministry Participants ____ Non-Ministry Participants
6. Those Who Feel Included ____ Those who Feel Excluded
7. Accepting ____ A1 Controlling Towards Pastoral Leadership

The Church of Jerusalem’s Response Congregational Cliques & Discord

They appointed Deacons, a _____ and _____ group of ministry leaders to provide the ministry of _____ so that...

1. All Jerusalem Church members (including the Hellenistic Jewish Widows) could receive care

-AND-

2. The Apostles could remain focused on “prayer and the ministry of the word.”

What Happened When the “Cliques” Came Together as One in the Jerusalem Church?

When Church “Cliques” Come Together

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. (Acts 6:1)

Acts 6:1 with Dr. Bill’s Notes

In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews [the Greek speaking, newcomers] among them complained against the Hebraic Jews [the original, Aramaic speaking church families] because their [the Greek speaking, newcomer] widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.

The “Culture” of Ministry Life

Read Acts 6:1.

Acts 6:1 teaches us that the culture of the congregation in Jerusalem Church was _____.

Qualifications & Requirements for the New Testament Diaconate

Being “full of the Spirit” is the result of a _____, ongoing _____ with God. The New Testament Diaconate member is a one who is dedicated to _____ the _____ and regularly attends _____, _____, and _____.

In the case of the church in Jerusalem, “wisdom” probably referred to the proper _____ of _____ and the “rightful” distribution of _____ (reference Acts 6:1).

The Hellenistic “...widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food.” (Acts 6:1)

Deacons (Disciples) Filled with the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:1-2 (Message Translation)

¹ Now, it happened that while Apollos was away in Corinth, Paul made his way down through the mountains, came to Ephesus, and happened on some disciples there.

² The first thing he said was, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? Did you take God into your mind only, or did you also embrace him with your heart? Did he get inside you?” “We’ve never even heard of that—a Holy Spirit? God within us?”

Qualifications & Requirements for the New Testament Diaconate

The New Testament Diaconate Member is to be Full of...

1. The _____: In Acts 6:3a & 5, the “Spirit” is mentioned as a required quality for New Testament Diaconate leadership. You were chosen as Diaconate member because you have demonstrated a life that reflects the Spirit of Christ.
2. _____: Not educational knowledge, but “know-how”. It speaks to the New Testament Diaconate member knowing the basic inner workings of ministry (i.e. how do ministry and “get things done”).

The “Culture” of Ministry Life

Compare Acts 6:1 to Today’s Churches.

The Jerusalem Church Acts 6:1 teaches Diaconate Leaders...

1. The Dynamic of Cliques in the Modern Day Church.
2. How to spiritually lead and unite congregations that are divided by cliques.

²So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, “It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. Acts 6:2 (NIV)

So the Twelve called a meeting of the disciples. They said, “It wouldn’t be right for us to abandon our responsibilities for preaching and teaching the Word of God to help with the care of the poor. Acts 6:2 (Message)

The Handling of Cultural & Ministry “Challenges” within the Congregation

Acts 6:2 helps Diaconate Leaders understand that the Diaconate Focus must be the Word of God. Deacons and Deaconesses are called to...

1. *Avoid leading according to Personal Preferences.*
2. *Lead others to Serve “Shoulder to Shoulder” in Christ.*
3. *Neither being the source of nor being a part of congregational cliques.*

Key Requirement for Doing Diaconate Congregational Care

The Deacon/Deaconess cannot be a part of a “_____” and do _____.

³*So, friends, choose seven men from among you whom everyone trusts, men full of the Holy Spirit and good sense, and we’ll assign them this task. Acts 6:3 (Message Translation)*

The “Call” of Congregational Care for Diaconate Members

Acts 6:3 (Message Translation)

“We’ll assign them this task.”

[Paraphrase] Only those who are trusted by “everyone” to do their diaconate “task” AND filled with the Holy Spirit AND have Good sense can do Congregational Care.

Qualifications & Requirements for the New Testament Diaconate

^{3a} Brothers and sisters, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. (Acts 6:3a)

⁵This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism. (Acts 6:5)

Now Reflect on Your Reading of Acts 6:3a & 5.

Why is it important for Deacons and Deaconesses to be...

1. Trusted by Everyone?
2. Filled with the Holy Spirit?
3. Have Good Sense and Wisdom?
4. Able to please the “whole group” by simply being chosen by the congregation?

What happens when a Deacon/Deaconess does not meet the above qualifications and requirements?