

ARTICLE VIII. GOVERNMENT

Section 3. Deacons

~~The deacons shall be men of mature Christian experience and knowledge, who shall be expected to meet the requirements set forth in 1 Timothy 3 and Acts 6. Deacons shall be at least 23 years old, and shall have been members of the assembly for at least one year. They shall currently support the church with their tithes and offerings, have a cooperative spirit, and regularly attend church services. They shall not hold ministerial credentials.~~

A person's life and character must pass certain criteria before qualifying one to serve. The Scriptures dictate the qualifications.

1. The deacon must be chosen from "among you" (Acts 6:3), a lay member of the local congregation for at least 1 year.
2. The deacon must be of good reputation, "of honest report" (Acts 6:3, KJV). The confidence and trust of the congregation and community are essential.
3. The deacon is in a spiritual ministry, "full of the Spirit" (Acts 6:3), according to Acts 2:4, and continuing to be "filled" (Ephesians 5:18).
4. The deacon is required to make decisions in practical and temporal matters as well as giving support to the pastor in spiritual matters, so sound direction and wise counsel need "wisdom" (Acts 6:3).
5. The deacon must be willing to be involved in the work of God through the church; the deacon is to "serve" (Acts 6:2, KJV).
6. The deacon is to be "sincere" (1 Timothy 3:8), i.e., steadfast and serious.
7. The deacon is "not double-tongued" (1 Timothy 3:8, KJV), i.e., must be as good as one's word, dependable.
8. The deacon is "not indulging in much wine" (1 Timothy 3:8), but is temperate, not depending on physical stimulants.
9. The deacon is "not pursuing dishonest gain" (1 Timothy 3:8), but faithful with the tithe, generous, and not motivated by money.
10. The deacon is proper in doctrine, keeping "hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience" (1 Timothy 3:9), fully subscribing to the tenets of faith of the Assemblies of God.
11. The deacon is a mature believer, "and let these also first be proved" (1 Timothy 3:10, KJV).
12. The deacon has not experienced extramarital mix-ups; a married deacon must be in a faithful, monogamous marriage (1 Timothy 3:12).
13. Deacons lead their homes in Christ, "ruling their children and their own houses well" (1 Timothy 3:12).
14. Any spouses of deacons (or deaconesses) must be an example of the Christian life, "not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything" (1 Timothy 3:11).
15. At the discretion of the local congregation, a female meeting the above stated qualifications may be selected to serve as a deaconess.

ARTICLE XI. DEPARTMENTS

Sections 2. Christians Education

Christian Education shall be considered as that department of the church which particularly provides for the teaching ministry of the church and the spiritual care of the young of the flock. ~~The church board shall appoint the superintendent of the Sunday school from among the members of the church, which appointment shall be submitted for ratification to the church as a whole.~~ The Senior Pastor shall appoint a ministry leader from among the members of the church. ~~The Senior Pastor and the superintendent ministry leader of the Sunday School~~ shall have the right to appoint all officers, teachers, and other workers of the Sunday School and, in consultation with the workers of the school, determined all policies and programs of the school.

ARTICLE XIII. PROPERTY

Section 2. Purchases and Sales of Property

All purchases of ~~furnishings, equipment, and other items of tangible personal property exceeding \$5,000 in cost, and all purchases and sales of real property~~ real estate (property and buildings) shall be authorized by a vote of at least two-thirds of the voting membership who are in attendance at a regular or special meeting of the assembly.