



Job Description

Deacons and Deaconesses

Draft

Believing Jesus is our only hope, Stumptown Mennonite Church leads people in a growing relationship with Jesus Christ. We follow His ways and together build the kingdom of God in a community where everyone belongs.

Skills and Qualifications

The deacons and deaconess' position is based on 1 Timothy 3:8. The deacons and deaconesses are the hands and feet of Jesus as they serve the congregation with compassion and encouragement. They primarily serve and care for the practical needs of the congregation.

Expectations

- Is a committed member of SMC.
- Supports the mission, vision, and work of SMC, advancing the Kingdom of God.
- Recognize the spiritual authority and receive the direction of the Lead Pastor.
- The lead deacon is a member of the ministry team.
- Deacons meet quarterly.
- Deacons and deaconesses will receive orientation at the time they begin service.

Areas of service

Multiple Deacons and Deaconesses will serve in roles that align with their unique spiritual gifts and personal strengths. This allows us to effectively meet the diverse needs of our congregation while enabling each Deacon and Deaconess to serve where they can make the greatest impact.

- Oversee benevolence fund (Current benevolent team: Mushtaq Masih (Leader), Andy Diener mostly retired), Keith Nyce)
 - Inform the congregation of needs within the community and for ministries that the church supports.
 - Receive requests of needs of church members and those within our community and determine allocation of funds.

- Determine how best to meet those needs. This could be organizing help for someone in need, providing needed finances and/or financial counseling.
- Work with community agencies to help support congregants.
- Visitation
 - Attend to the well-being of church members.
 - Visitation will be divided among a number of deacons or delegated to volunteers to visit those in retirement communities and in their own homes. (Fairmount Home, Garden Spot Village, Landis Homes, Mennonite Home and Community)
 - Pastors may request additional visits for families who have experienced loss or significant illness.
 - Guidelines will be established for visitation.
- Preparation for communion
 - Oversee the preparation of the elements for communion. This can be delegated to congregants.
- Preparation for baptism: Assist with instructional preparation of baptismal Candidates
- Preparation for foot washing: Prepare basins, towels, and room for scheduled foot washing services.
- Provide support and assistance, as needed, to the kitchen committee for funeral meals, fellowship meals, and other church gatherings.

Term - 3 years, can be renewed.

Goal: 3-5 deacons/deaconesses (This includes some women)

Revised from November draft based on congregational feedback.

- Recommended and decided to move this responsibility elsewhere.
 - Kitchen Committee: Meal preparation: Funeral meals, fellowship meals. This can be delegated to congregants.

April, 2025 Recommended by Stumptown Mennonite Church Council for church body approval