



1 | ACTS 6:1-7

HOW DEACONS GROW THE CHURCH

The way to greatness is service. The slave of Christ is the most free and the most fruitful! The one who is most selfless will be most used by the Lord.

Outline

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Men Recognized for their Gifts
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Call to Worship

Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth! ² Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.—Psalm 100

Songs

All Creatures of Our God and King
Holy, Holy, Holy
He Will Hold Me Fast
The Cause of Christ
Doxology

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME: We are glad you are here! Be sure to grab a Welcome Packet from the Welcome Center if you are visiting with us.

ORDINATION: The following deacons will be ordained to ministry today: Vincent Tello, Zvonimir Keser, Nick Gouwens, Avinash Chetty, and Marco Barrios.

Introduction

We are gathered here today to ordain five men to be deacons: Vincent Tello, Zvonimir Keser, Nick Gouwens, Avinash Chetty, and Marco Barrios. Deacons are so important because they **serve the church**. They **help the church as it grows**.

GROWING PAINS

I don't know whether you've ever experienced growing pains. When I was a kid, the **growing pains were so bad at times that they woke me up out of my sleep**. My mom would tell me, "It'll be ok, you just have growing pains." When I got to be a teenager, I can remember some **emotional growing pains**, as I was trying to adjust to the awkwardness of teenage life.

Whether we grow as Christians or the church grows, there are always growing pains and a need for selflessness and sacrifice. One way that you know you are growing in the Christian life is your **selflessness and service**. Remember the words of Jesus.

Matthew 20:25-28 | You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It shall not be so among you. But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, ²⁸ even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.

God **blessees and exalts to new levels of fruitfulness** those who are willing to be slaves of Jesus Christ. True slaves of Christ put their rights aside to serve God and his people. Remember what James said.

James 4:10 | Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

I want to be used of God, don't you.

Key thought: The way to greatness is service. The slave of Christ is the most free and the most fruitful! The one who is most selfless will be most used by the Lord.

In the early days of the church, as the church grew at an incredible rate, there were problems that could only be solved by **Spirit-filled servants of God**, who helped the apostles so they could **preach and pray**. All of us need to be those Spirit filled examples of the believer, because difficulties and problems will come. We can't just ignore it. We have to step up when difficulties come. Listen to Dr. Luke describe the difficulty.

1. THE DIFFICULTY (6:1-2)

Acts 6:1-2 | Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.² And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.”

THE DIFFICULTY OF GROWTH

It’s **hard to be a growing church**. There has to be a mentality of victory and faith, or the church will isolate and insulate itself from problems. We must not have an insulated view of the Christian life. We are called to pierce the darkness, not run away from it.

Acts 6:1a | Now in these days ... the disciples were increasing in number...

With new people come baggage and problems that God promises to sanctify. When **growth comes** into your life, or in the church **you will often face difficulty**.

The church in Jerusalem was **not running away from evangelism** because suffering. They were being **persecuted**. They were lifting up Christ in the midst of severe persecution. **The apostles had just been jailed, released by an angel, and then beaten with 39 lashes**. As Christians, we know that suffering is a major part of growing in Christ. **Suffering grows us!**

Romans 5:3-4 | We rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope.

The apostles don’t get out of jail and out of their beating and say, “You know what, **things are less tyrannical in Syria or North Africa**. Let’s move.” I understand our freedoms are being taken away in this state of Illinois where we live. But the apostles didn’t make a march out of town. They **stayed, were imprisoned, beaten, and they kept preaching** in that tyrannical city of Jerusalem. They were told to stop preaching Christ, but they stayed and preached Christ.

Because they had this mindset of evangelism in the face of tyranny, the church in Jerusalem is **no longer growing** by **addition**. It was **addition in Acts 2**. Now it is **multiplication**. There’s something terribly wrong with any church, small or large, that is not growing. We don’t run away from tyrants. We confront them with the claims of Jesus Christ.

We ought to be interested in **growing right where we are in this dark time in history**. I know there is a great temptation to want to run away from the expansion of tyrannical government powers in our state. We all want to live peaceably and enjoy the Christian life. But we really on a rescue mission. We are on the offense; we are going right up to the gates of hell and snatching people out. Christ will build his church and the gates of hell will not prevail. Those gates cannot keep people bound. The Son will set them free. I love the quote from the missionary to Africa. It’s of my favorite quotes of all time.

Some wish to live within the sound of a chapel bell; I wish to run a rescue mission within a yard of hell. — *C.T. Studd*

If we all have this mentality, we are going to grow. But growing is not **automatic**, nor is growing **easy**.

GROWTH IS FROM GOD

The disciples wanted to grow, but God had to give the increase. These **early disciples prayed that they might grow**. They **planned** that they might grow. They cultivated, and they watered, but it was God that gave the increase (1 Cor 3:6). But, in the last analysis, their growth was there because of their spiritual vitality—their walk with God. Numerical growth is the result of spiritual growth.

We know **three thousand joined the one hundred and twenty on the day of Pentecost**. Then **five thousand heads of households came to Christ, likely twenty thousand if you include women and children**. So that's around *twenty-three thousand*. But now there is multiplication. The disciples are "increasing in number." Some have estimated that up to **a hundred thousand would join the church in the first six months**. That's a revival of historic proportions, especially since the world's population at the time was only 300 million at the time of the book of Acts.

If we give the Word, the Spirit will convert the hearts, and numbers of people will be added to the church. But **with growth comes problems**.

THE DANGER OF DIVISION

Acts 6:1 | Now in these days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution.

As the church was growing at an incredible rate, the early church in Jerusalem had a specific difficulty. What happened is this: There were two types of Jews in the early church. There were the **Hellenistic Jews, and there were the Hebrew Jews**. The **Hellenistic Jews** were adapted to Greek and Roman culture. They **spoke Greek**. The **Hebrew Jews were separate from the culture and lived an exclusively Jewish life**. They spoke Aramaic and Hebrew. At this time, there was a division between the two. Some of those who were of the **Hellenistic group felt that they were being overlooked**, even **discriminated** against. And to see how wrong it was, Luke mentions that these were widows. **Widows, in that day, had no other means of support**. There was **no Social Security**. These widows had to be taken care of by the church, if they were to survive. They were being overlooked, and the apostles saw this and began meeting their needs, but it took them away from the preaching of the Word.

THE PROBLEM

The natural response to problems in those days and in ours is complaining. The Scripture says, **a complaint** arose and there was a division between the Hebrews and the **Hellenist Christians**. People's mothers and grandmothers were involved. This is Satan's scheme when the church is growing. He's going to tempt us with division, with complaining.

When **new people come into the church there can be jealousy**. There can be a shuffling of duties and gifts. There also can be neglect, which was happening in Jerusalem. Ephesians warns us that we are to **bear with each other, or literally "tolerate" one another**.

Ephesians 4:2-3 | Walk... worthy... with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.

We are all porcupines. We are going to offend. We must get our eyes off of self. That's what servants do. **We are not to murmur, we are to multiply!** **Murmuring is the devil's way to divide when God wants to multiply.** Whisper campaigns and gossip are not fruits of the Spirit. Paul reminds us to never complain.

Philippians 2:14 | Do all things without grumbling or disputing.

I want every Christian, every believer in this church, to hear that. Do all things without grumbling or complaining. Why? Because **when you have people, and you progress together, you are going to have problems.** And the problem in the Jerusalem church was not **primary**; it was **secondary**. There was a perception that one group was being favored over another. Now there is division.

HOW YOU HANDLE DIFFICULTY

When the possibility of **difficulty and division** comes, how you handle it show if you are genuinely God's child.

1 Corinthians 11:19 | There must be factions among you in order that those who are genuine among you may be recognized.

Now, it was necessary that it be addressed; but it's **generally not the big things** that divide churches today. It is the small things, the functional matters, the petty matters.

"They **moved our classroom.** They divided our class. We were not notified. Our opinion is not important." Well, no one should do things carelessly, but anybody can make mistakes.

"I **don't want to work in the kids' ministry or the kitchen ministry** or the media ministry." It's true that sometimes God moves us around in ministry, and growing Christians will always have **a servant's heart and a willingness to serve anywhere.**

SERVE THE LORD WITH GLADNESS

Instead, we need to serve the Lord with gladness!

Psalms 100:2-5 | Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing! ³ Know that the Lord, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture. ⁴ Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! ⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

THE DYNAMIC OF THE MAIN THING

Acts 6:2 | And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.

What was the solution? They have to **keep the main thing the main thing**. No matter what, the **preaching has to go forward**. Let's keep first things first. The **word of God and prayer have to be first**. The teachers and elders cannot be serving tables as their main job. Their job is the word and prayer. So they need to set apart for ministry those who will be flexible and take on these duties. We ought not be overcome by problems. Be flexible. Be a servant. It's not ok to complain. But be communicative. **When problems arise, it's an opportunity to serve**.

Notice that the main thing has to remain the main thing. The Word of God has to be primary. **The Word of God and prayer are the primary means for the congregation to be filled with the Holy Spirit**. It is the primary way to grow the church. If measures are not taken to lift up the Jesus through the Word and prayer, in evangelism and discipleship, then the church will die. It was vital for the early church to set apart qualified men to be what would become the office of deacon in the church. Now as we look at these first deacons (though they are not called deacons, but they function as deacons), we are going to see that they are exemplary men.

2. THE DEACONS (6:3-6)

Acts 6:3-6 | Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. ⁴But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." ⁵And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. ⁶These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

SEVEN SERVANTS

There are **no problems too big to solve**; only people too small to solve them. They looked among them, likely around **23,000 people, and at least 6000** or so heads of households. They set apart seven servants for the church. These are not called deacons, but they were definitely a model for the first deacons.

And what we find as we see them described, is that they are each an example for the believer. Remember we are all to lead exemplary lives as believers.

1 Timothy 4:12 | Be an example to all believers in what you say, in the way you live, in your love, your faith, and your purity.

These men, as we will see, set an excellent **example for the believer**. We are all called to be like these deacons. First, we are called to have the heart of a servant. The officer in the church must be willing to serve, to stretch, to lay his life down for the church. That's the life of a slave of Jesus. We must have a servant's heart, like these first prototypes for the deacons.

MEN WITH SERVANTS' HEARTS

Acts 6:2 | And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables."

These were superior men. It takes **a superior man to serve**. These men, these seven men, may have been the very first deacons. Not just anyone was chosen. They had to search for these men. These were not inferior men. **Jesus said he came to be a deacon. He is the ultimate Deacon!** He also said we all should be ministers or "servants."

Matthew 20:28 | Even as the Son of man came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.

He tells us what greatness looks like. He also said we all should be deacons!

Mark 10:43 | But whoever will be great among you shall be your servant.

The word here "minister" (Mk 10:43) literally means "your servant." There are two principles in serving the Body of Christ: **expendability** and **flexibility**. All parts of Christ's body are **expendable**. None of us is needed. We can give way to others. But on the other hand, we need to each be **flexible**, and when we are needed, we should be willing to step up. We should all be willing to do anything for the Lord Jesus Christ.

MEN OF A GOOD REPUTATION

Now, what qualities does it take for a man to be a deacon in any New Testament church? These were men of a good reputation. They were clearly living out the Christian life with joy and consistency.

Acts 6:3a | Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute.

Out of the 23,000 souls converted thus far, most of them were Aramaic speaking, Hebrew cultured Jews.

Yet **every one of the men they choose are Greek-speaking Jews**. They are cultured in Rome and Greece. But notice that culture doesn't matter. It just makes things more interesting. What matters is character. These were men with a servant's heart, a good reputation and character, and a missionary zeal.

What matter in the Kingdom is not so much culture but character. These men could speak Greek. They had experienced areas of culture that the Hebrew Jews didn't. But that's not the most important thing. Character and a good reputation is what matters. I constantly have told my children, you may get a great education, be very talented, be popular, and gain the whole world, but if you don't have Christ you are a total failure. What we need is children and parents who want to be conformed to the image of Christ. We need that kind of reputation: constantly growing and changing to be like Christ.

MEN FULL OF WISDOM

Acts 6:3 | Men ... full of ... wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty.

Deacons are to an example of the believer, and that means they are to be **wise and understanding in the congregation**. In this passage, there are a cluster of Greek words that have the word *deacon* or *diakonos* in them, which means “deacon” or “servant.” These seven men were the first deacon prototypes. Not just anyone was chosen.

Know the Lord

They were men who were full of wisdom. That means they didn’t just know the word and doctrine, but they knew how to walk with the Lord and walk in the word, applying it to their lives. The greatest step forward in wisdom is the fear of the Lord, or what we might call “practicing the presence of God”. Until you realize that the word is not the end but a means to an end, that of knowing God in Christ, then you cannot say you are wise.

Proverbs 9:10 | The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.

So wisdom is really knowing how to walk with God. Think of Enoch. He was walking with God so closely, and then God just took him to heaven without dying.

Genesis 5:24 | Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him.

Know the Word

Psalms 119:105 | Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

It’s not just the pastors that need to know the Bible. And of course, deacons should know the Scriptures, but not just them. Each Christian should be “wise unto salvation” (2 Tim 3:15). Every Christian should be competent to counsel and instruct each other. We are to build each other up in Christ our head (Eph 4:11-16).

Serve People

Not only does wisdom mean we know God, but we have compassion on our brothers and sisters. Deacons are to know what is going on in the lives of the people. At this time, these men were **to get to know what was happening in the lives of these widows**. This means deacons are **peacemakers and problem solvers**. What Paul says of the Romans, should be true of all of us. He says:

Romans 15:14 | I myself am satisfied about you, my brothers, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able to instruct one another.

Are you full of wisdom? If you are a new Christian, you can at least start giving the Gospel to those around you. If you came to know Christ, then you have the ability to share how you were saved. But don’t stay there. You are your brother’s and your sister’s keeper (Gen 4:9). Gain the wisdom of not just knowing the word but walking in the word (Jas 1:22-25). Don’t just be a “forgetful hearer” but be a “doer” of the work. You’d better not wait until you get a Ph.D. to start helping your brothers and sisters grow. It’s just like a family. Wisdom is gained by doing. Go and learn how to apply the word of God to your life. Help others do the same. That’s wisdom.

MEN WHO SUPPORT THE WORD

In some functional ways, the apostles are the counterpart of the pastors and the preachers and missionaries today. They had to continue the ministry of the Word of God. Look, if you will, in verse 2. They said,

Acts 6:2 | “It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables.”

Now, it’s not that they were too good to do it. It just did not make sense. Look in verse 4:

Acts 6:4 | “But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

They’re saying, “We can be more effective if we do that which God has called us to do, and that is to pray and minister the Word of God.” The early deacons were not there to free the pastor from work, but to free the pastor to work. It’s not that the apostles were too good or too dignified to serve. They had a different assignment. They were getting behind with their prayer, with their sermon preparation, with their soul winning, and with their preaching and the ministry of the Word of God. And they said, “This doesn’t make sense.” In other words, the pastors and elders who stayed long term after the apostles’ work, knew that if they didn’t evangelize and disciple those who were coming to Christ, the church would die.

Many in the ministry today have left the emphasis on prayer and the word of God. They are so involved in the administrative details of their church that they have **little time left for intercession and study of the Word**. Yet pastors and elders are given to the church “for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ” (Eph 4:12). Their calling is to mature the saints so they can do the work of the ministry. By neglecting that calling, they doom their congregations to languish in spiritual infancy. **Programs are no substitute for the power of God and his word**. Those whom God has called to the ministry of prayer and the word must make it their priority.¹

I’ve learned a long time ago that a preacher who’s always available isn’t worth a whole lot when he is available. He needs to be alone with God. He needs to be in the Word of God. And the best time that I can spend on your behalf is not when I am before you, talking to you about God, but when I am before God, talking to him about you, and filling my heart with the Word of God, and preparing to preach, and then ministering the Word of God, and serving, and equipping you to serve.

So, the early apostles said, “Now, it doesn’t make sense that our ministry be cancelled out by doing these things.” And so, they need to continue to do what God had called them to do. So, there was the *spiritual ministry*—that is, for spiritual food.

MEN FULL OF FAITH

Acts 6:5a | And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith.

¹ John F. MacArthur Jr., *Acts*, vol. 1, MacArthur New Testament Commentary (Chicago: Moody Press, 1994), 179.

Stephen was an exceptional man of faith. We see that by his confrontation of the Sanhedrin in the next chapter. Deacons are to be those who are well grounded in the faith. This is not only doctrinal, which we will find out is absolutely necessary, but also, these men are not just financial men. They are that. They help with the distribution of the funds to the needy. But they are to be full of faith.

Deacons are to be an example of the normal believer who is not only supposed to be a good steward, a person of ethics, but **also a person of vision and faith**. God works in ways that go “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think” (Eph 3:20).

MEN FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 6:5 | And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch.

Now all these men have **Greek names because they were all Hellenists**. They all spoke Greek. It doesn't matter what culture you are from. There is so much diversity and culture here at Living Hope, and we celebrate that. That ought never divide us. Just as a body has many parts, so the body of Christ has many cultures. We celebrate the diversity, because God gave you your culture to do your part of his Kingdom work. Our society would have you focus on culture as something that divides us. But in Christ culture is celebrated. Christ's body is made up of every culture. **God wants his churches to look like heaven**.

Revelation 7:9 | I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes.

STEPHEN SINGLED OUT

But **Stephen is singled out here**. Stephen is the first martyr of the church. James is later the first apostle to be martyred. But Stephen is going to die.

Gamaliel is training someone very important who is also a Hellenist: **Saul of Tarsus**. Saul of Tarsus is going to take over where Stephen leaves off. Stephen in the next chapter will boldly proclaim Christ at the cost of his own life. But God saves that other Hellenist Jew, Saul of Tarsus, and Saul, also known as Paul (his Hellenist name) will take the Gospel not only to Samaria, but to the ends of the earth.

Not only was Stephen filled with faith, but he was also **filled with the Spirit**. This is the prototype not only for a deacon but for any believer. **Officers of the church are to be those who are examples of the Spirit-filled life**. To be Spirit-filled means that these men are not characterized by anger, anxiety, despair or worldliness, but by the presence of God in their lives. What's a Spirit-filled life look like? It looks like a heart filled with the word, with worship, and with the wonder of gratitude.

Ephesians 5:18-21 | And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always and for everything to

God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Remember, if your heart is not filled with the word of God, with worship, and with wonder, then you are withering away. The flesh will wither you. Be filled with the Spirit! The Spirit-filled life is the opposite of the anger and anxiety of the flesh. It's not the fleshly life that is never satisfied.

MEN RECOGNIZED AS SERVANTS

Acts 6:6 | These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

These men are **recognized by the apostles for their gifts and their servant's heart**. The **apostles set these men apart and ordain them**. The apostles pray and look to God for the church to be cared for through the gifting of **set apart men**. They laid hands on them. What does that mean? It means they recognized their gifts. That's how it is in every healthy congregation. The elders and pastors will recognize those who are living an exemplary Christian life with servants hearts and set them apart for service to the church. These men, though humble, are recognized here by the apostles for their gifts and their ability to serve.

We also recognize something else: though **each of these men is a Greek speaking Jew**, they serve **the majority who are Aramaic speaking Jews**. What a beautiful display of unity—especially considering that all those chosen had Greek names. **The Greek cultured people were serving the Jewish cultured people**. The Holy Spirit was reigning. The result?² God's blessing and favor was manifestly upon them.

3. THE DIVINE FAVOR (6:7)

Acts 6:7 | And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests became obedient to the faith.

The organization of the church freed the apostles to devote themselves to prayer and the Word. It also avoided a church split. Luke closes this section, as he has before, by noting the development of the church. The word of God kept on spreading from the church as a direct result of the freeing of the apostles to carry out their primary ministry, and also of the church's unity.³

What was the result? The blessing of God continued and increased! The church was still **unified** (Acts 6:5), it **multiplied** (Acts 6:7), and God was **magnified** (Acts 6:8).

Conclusion

Glory to God we get to set apart five new deacons for ordination! I would like to call to the front our current deacons and our elders, and invite the five new deacons up who will be ordained to the deacon ministry today:

- Vincent Tello

² R. Kent Hughes, *Acts: The Church Afire*, Preaching the Word (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1996), 98.

³ MacArthur, *Acts*, vol. 1, 184.

- Zvonimir Keser
- Nick Gouwens
- Avinash Chetty
- Marco Barrios

DEACON VOWS FOR ORDINATION

THE NEW DEACONS comes today for ordination to the deaconate ministry. We would ask for THEIR WIVES to join THEM as well.

WIVES, Do you fully support your husband in his ordination to the office of deacon? We do.

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Vows

NEW DEACONS, I would ask you to affirm positively to each of these vows if you are able to affirm them.

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Do you believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, as originally given, to be the inerrant Word of God, the only infallible rule of faith and practice? **I do.**

Do you believe that you are truly called by God and his Church to the life and work of a deacon and that you meet the qualifications for the office of deacon according to 1 Timothy 3? **I do.**

Do you now in the presence of the Church commit yourself to this trust and responsibility? **I do.**

Will you be guided by the pastoral direction and leadership of your church and elders? **I will.**

Will you be faithful in prayer, and in the reading and study of the Holy Scriptures? **I will.**

Will you look for Christ in all others, being ready to help and serve those in need? **I will.**

Will you do your best to pattern your life and that of your family in accordance with the teachings of Christ and His Word, so that you may be a wholesome example to all people? **I will.**

Will you in all things seek not your glory but the glory of the Lord Christ? **By the grace of God, I will.**

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GIVING OF THE WALKING STAFFS AND CERTIFICATES

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We would ask you OUR NEW DEACONS to kneel as the elders and deacons come and lay hands upon you and ordain you to this work in a prayer of commissioning to this work.

Elders to pray over new deacons and set them apart for ministry.