

DEACON EXPECTATIONS

Because we desire the character of Christ to be reflected in the leadership of His church, The Church at Brook Hills holds her leaders to a high standard of accountability. Deacons are leading servants in the church who magnify Christ as they multiply ministry to the body. The following document describes the expectations we understand Scripture to associate with deacons in the church.

The Church at Brook Hills, in accordance with Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13, expects her deacons to live and lead in the following ways. By the grace of Christ and for the glory of Christ, we expect deacons:

- To lead others to serve in a particular area of ministry in order to meet particular needs in our faith family.
- To submit to and support the Elders of The Church at Brook Hills in their ministry of the Word.
- To promote the unity of the church by understanding the church's mission and laboring to help others understand and accomplish that mission.
- To demonstrate the character of Christ, which means (based on 1 Timothy 3:8-13):
 - Living an honorable life, worthy of respect by others in the church.
 - Being sincere and genuine in service to Christ and others.
 - Being self-controlled, including the control of the tongue in avoiding gossip, slander, and conversations that do not edify the body of Christ.
 - Honoring Christ and His church with financial resources.
 - Reading, studying, and applying God's Word.
 - Faithfully serving Christ and His church.
 - Living above reproach by reflecting the character of Christ.
 - Honoring Christ in the home.
 - If single, honoring Christ in singleness.
 - If married, honoring Christ and a spouse in a way that accords with the biblical guidelines for marriage.
 - If a parent, leading children to honor Christ with their lives.

Deacons in The Church at Brook Hills assume a responsibility to the church to uphold these expectations. If at any point a church member has a biblical concern about a deacon's life or leadership, deacons expect church members to prayerfully and humbly approach them in grace and mercy about their concerns in order to encourage their growth in Christ (Matthew 18:15-17). If church leaders determine that such concerns warrant temporary or permanent removal from leadership as a deacon, then the deacon will relinquish those leadership responsibilities in order to give primary focus to his or her relationship with Christ, with the support of the church.

All of these expectations are dependent on the grace of Christ for their fulfillment in any deacon's life or leadership. As such, deacons expect and need the church to pray for them – that God might give them the power they need to fulfill these expectations for the glory of Christ in His church and in all the world.