

# **Olive Branch Baptist Church**

## **2024 Deacon Consideration Form**

The deacons of the church play a vital role in pastoral care to our church family. In order to be effective, based on our current active membership, we seek to maintain twelve active deacons. In accordance with our bylaws, a deacon can serve only 3 years consecutively. Therefore, each year 4 deacons will rotate off and must be replaced. The first part of the selection process is this consideration form. Any member of the church can offer a name for consideration.

### **Selection Process for Olive Branch**

#### **Bylaws Article Two - Administration and Officers; Section D. Deacons - page 7**

Deacons shall be male church members who have scriptural qualifications and who are seriously concerned about the welfare of the church. Church members will be requested annually to nominate men to fill the vacancies on the Deacons' Board. From the nominations received from the member's nomination forms, the Pastor and Chairman of the Deacons will review and contact the most qualified nominees until the number of nominees needed to fill the vacancies have agreed to serve. These names will be submitted to the congregation for a vote along with the selection of officers annually.

### **Scriptural Qualifications of a Deacon**

Below are the qualifications for deacons of any church proscribed by the apostles and the apostle Paul  
Acts 6:13

1. Full of the Holy Spirit
2. Full of Wisdom

#### 1 Timothy 3:8-12

1. Worthy of respect (v.8)
2. Not hypocritical (v.8)
3. Not drinking a lot of wine (v.8)
4. Not greedy for money (v.8)
5. Hold the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience (v.9)
6. Tested (i.e. previous activity in church ministry and/ or church life) (v.10)
7. If married, his wife must be worthy of respect, not a slanderer, self-controlled and faithful in everything (v.11)
8. If married, faithful to his wife (v.12)
9. If he has children, he must manage his household well (v.12)

### **Duties of Olive Branch Deacons**

The bylaws of Olive Branch Baptist Church state six primary duties of a deacon. Below they are divided into two categories: serving and leading. Both roles are vital for all deacons at Olive Branch.

#### **Serving**

1. In accordance with the meaning of the Word and the practice of the New Testament, be servants of the church.
2. Be zealous to guard the unity of the spirit within the church in the bond of peace.
3. Establish and maintain personal fraternal relations with all the members of the church and utilize the Deacon Family Ministry Plan. Seek to know the physical needs and the moral and spiritual struggles of the brothers and sisters. Serve the entire church body in relieving, encouraging, and developing all who are in need. Visit regularly with the Pastor, when called upon, or at the initiative of the Deacon.

### Leading

4. Serve as a council of advice and conference with the Pastor in all matters pertaining to the welfare and work of the church.
5. In counsel with the Pastor, they are to exercise oversight in regard to the discipline of the church. They are to be guided always by the principles set forth in Matthew 18:15-17; 1 Corinthians 5:9-13; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-14. The Deacons shall be free to call upon any member of the church to aid in disciplinary action.
6. In any period when the church is without a Pastor, unless the church shall otherwise provide, they will arrange for temporary ministry.

### Additional Expectations of a Deacon at Olive Branch

- Agree with the *Articles of Faith* in the Constitution of Olive Branch Baptist Church.
- Be actively involved in all major areas of church life.
- Be an example in Christian living and witness.
- Be able to keep in confidence those things which should not be discussed with others.
- Recognize the God-given spiritual leadership of the pastors and serve under their leadership.
- Attend the monthly deacon's meetings (second Monday of each month at 7 pm) unless hindered by work, illness or family obligation.
- Each deacon is assigned about 12 families from the church membership to care for. He should make an initial contact with each family by visit, phone call or card each September and then each month afterwards.
- Make contact with assigned families as soon as possible when someone is in the hospital or has passed away.

### Your Recommendations

Any member of the church can make a recommendation. You can recommend up to six men. You can also recommend less than six. Please consider your recommendations in light of the qualifications, duties, and expectations above. All forms must be returned by **Sunday, July 7, 2024.**

#### Current Active Deacons – Do Not Recommend Anyone from this list

Steve Carroll  
Will Gill  
Michael Smith

Keith Ellis  
Tim Ittner  
Curtis Tyler

Pete English  
Steve Parrott  
Rex Watson

Ron George  
Frank Seamster

**I would like to recommend the following men to be considered for the deacon ministry:**

- |    |    |
|----|----|
| 1. | 4. |
| 2. | 5. |
| 3. | 6. |

Print your name \_\_\_\_\_

Your signature \_\_\_\_\_

(An unsigned form will be considered invalid)