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## Article 7. DEACONS

### Section 7.01. General Powers

(A) The Deacons shall be appointed by the Church Council and are responsible for assisting the pastor in the spiritual ministry of the Church and the care of the congregation.

(B) The office of a deacon demands a high level of commitment, a mature knowledge of the faith, and dedication to fellowship and service. I Timothy 3:13 summarizes it best, "For those who have served well as Deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus." That high standing does not mean a qualification for promotion in the church. Rather, it is the ability to speak with boldness from a faith and a testimony grounded in loyal and humble service to Christ and to His bride, the church. That great confidence does not give one the right to look down on any man, but the ability, borne out of a Christ-centered life, to look anyone in the eye and tell of Christ's love in an appeal to their decision to trust Christ as you have trusted Him and live for Him.

(C) Charge to the deacons:

As a deacon, you will study the Scriptures, pray without ceasing, serve the needy, and model your life after the life of Christ. To symbolize your acceptance of this call, you will answer the following charge before God and these witnesses by saying, "I will."

- God calls us to salvation and Christian living, Will you commit yourself to that kind of life? (response)
- God calls us to spread the good news of his love. Will you promise to tell others about the faith? (response)
- God calls us to teach the unsearchable riches of his Word. Will you consecrate your mind to study the Bible? (response)
- God calls us to minister to people wherever we find them in need. Will you dedicate yourself to helping the needy? (response)
- Will you pray for the direction of the Holy Spirit? (response)
- Will you be present and active in the Church? (response)
- Will you work with Church leaders to build up the congregation? (response)
- Will you strive to be an example to Christians and a bridge to non-Christians? (response)
- Will you promise to live in a way that will honor Christ, and, in the presence of this congregation, to accept the office of deacon, and to fulfill the duties of this office? (response)

### Section 7.02. Number, Term of Office, and Qualifications.

(A) By July of each year, the Deacon Chair will confer with the Senior Pastor and recommend to Church Council the number of Deacon positions which should be approved for the following church year. The number approved shall be recorded in the Council minutes.

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(B) There shall be 3 repeating Deacon tracks, each being a 3 year term. Each Deacon shall be assigned to a position within a specific track. Track A shall be considered to have started October 1, 2013. Track B shall be considered to have started October 1, 2014. Track C shall be considered to have started October 1, 2015. In the first year after approval of these amendments the Deacon Chair and the Pastor, with the concurrence of the Council, will designate which Deacons are In which positions/tracks in order to achieve a balanced rotation of approximately 1/3 of the Deacon positions each year.

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
A	A		A			A			A		
B		B			B			B		B	
C			C		C			C			

Prior to appointment, each Deacon candidate shall be notified as to which Deacon track they are to be assigned. Record of each assignment shall be kept in the Deacon minutes and shall be reported to Church Council on a regular basis. Deacon positions are not tied to specific offices.

(C) After serving a full term as appointed, Deacons shall take a minimum one year sabbatical. After one year out of active Deacon service a Deacon shall be eligible for nomination for reappointment to a Deacon position.

D. Qualifications

Individuals seeking appointment as a Deacon shall be a member of Effort Baptist Church, be an Active/Resident Member, be full of faith and wisdom, and be willing to assume the obligations of leadership and welfare of the membership. All Deacons must have been called at a Service of Ordination, or be presented at and participate in a scheduled ordination service.

Section 7.03. Nominations.

In July of each year the Deacon body shall publicize that they are seeking new Deacon candidates for the coming term. The congregation will be invited to submit names to the Deacon body. The Deacon Chair shall combine the names of prospective Deacons submitted by the Deacon Body with those submitted by the Congregation for presentation to the Church Council for approval. Once approved by Church Council, the Deacons will approach prospective members to obtain agreement to serve. The Deacon Body shall then submit names of those agreeing to serve to Church Council for appointment.

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#### Section 7.04. Resignation.

Any Deacon may resign at any time orally or in writing, by notifying the Council Chair or Council Secretary. Such resignation shall take effect at the time therein specified; and, unless otherwise specified, the acceptance of such resignation shall not be necessary to make it effective.

#### Section 7.05. Removal.

Any Deacon may be removed at any time, either with or without cause, by unanimous vote by those Council members present at a special meeting called expressly for that purpose, at which a quorum shall be present.

#### Section 7.06. Vacancy.

Any vacancy of a Deacon position caused by death, resignation, removal, disqualification, or any other cause, may be filled to serve the remainder of the position's term by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Council members at a duly called meeting. Deacons filling a position for less than 1.5 years would not be subject to the sabbatical requirement of 7.02(C).

#### Section 7.07. Quorum and Manner of Acting.

(A) A majority of the total number of active Deacons, as appointed by the Council in accordance with these By-Laws, shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

(B) Unless otherwise provided for in these By-Laws, the act of a majority of the Deacons present at any meeting at which a quorum is present shall be the act of the Deacons.

(C) In the absence of a quorum, a majority of the Deacons present may adjourn the meeting from time to time until a quorum be had.

(D) The Deacons shall act only as a group and the individual Deacons shall have no power as such.

(E) The Deacons shall vote in person. Proxy voting by the Deacons is not permitted.

#### Section 7.08. Compensation of Deacons.

No person serving as a Deacon shall receive compensation for such service.

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