

**Southcliff Baptist Church**  
**Deacon Nomination/Examination Questionnaire** (Updated 4/10/19)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

I prefer **NOT** to pursue the Deacon ministry at this time. (    ) *[If checked, please stop, return page 1 only]*

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Business Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Age \_\_\_\_\_ Are you married? \_\_\_\_\_ Wife's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Married \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_ Name Age

<u>Name</u>	<u>Age</u>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_ Employer: \_\_\_\_\_

Length of Employment (yr/mo): \_\_\_\_\_ Employer

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_ Supervisor Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Web Site: \_\_\_\_\_

**Provide Social Media Usage and Access Information**

Facebook Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Twitter Handle: \_\_\_\_\_

Instagram Username: \_\_\_\_\_

Blog Post Site: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

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## I. SCRIPTURAL QUALIFICATIONS:

Enclosed you will find our *Position Statement* on I Timothy 3:8-13. This passage, when taken as a whole, is the biblical profile of a man who has the character, leadership, spirit, morality and faithfulness to serve the church body in the specific role of deacon under the authority of the elder(s). In light of verse 10a, we ask you to first examine yourself on these specific qualities by answering for us truthfully the questions below. We believe this command in verse 10a is an ongoing evaluation of a deacon's character and service to be done by the church in general, the leadership specifically, and a process that begins now and does not end. Ultimately, we may lay our hands on you for ordination to this office at Southcliff, and possibly for service as deacon in other church bodies in the future, and we seek to fulfill this sober task in accordance with I Timothy 5:22:

**“Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.”**

According to I Timothy 5:23-24, *time* and *truth* go hand in hand. We recognize that we, too, are culpable before God for a man's sin of serving as an unqualified deacon and thus misleading many people.

### 1. *Man of Dignity:*

*A deacon must be serious in mind and character; not silly or flippant about important matters; reverent. [I Peter 1:13, 4:7, 5:8]*

**[Personal]** reflection/examination: How would your wife / children / friends / co-workers describe your attitude and behavior concerning matters of importance?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of a “*man of dignity*”? If not, please explain.

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of “*man of dignity*” in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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### 2. *Not Double-Tongued:*

*A deacon must have speech that is not hypocritical, but honest and consistent. A deacon must not say one thing to some people and something else to others [Ephesians 4:15, 25, 29]. A deacon must not maliciously slander fellow church members, leaders, policies, programs, etc. He is not a grumbler or argumentative [Philippians 2:14-16].*

**[Personal]** reflection/examination: Why is this an important character trait of a deacon?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of “*not double-tongued*”? If not, please explain.

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of “*not double-tongued*” in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? In not, please explain.

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**3. Not Addicted to much Wine:**

*A deacon must not be preoccupied with drink; he must not have a reputation as a drinker. Rather, his lifestyle must be radically/noticeably different from the world and lead others to holiness, not sin [Proverbs 23:29-35, 31:4-5, Romans 14:21, I Peter 4:1-3].*

Recognizing the high expectations of a church leader such as a deacon, both by the members of the church body and by those in the secular world, our deacon body has chosen to go beyond the biblical requirement of I Timothy 3:8, and to pledge from the time of election to deacon, and forward, to abstain from the consumption of alcoholic beverages/drink in either a recreational manner or as with the eating of a meal.

**[Personal reflection/examination:** What is your personal conviction about alcoholic consumption?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of “*not addicted to much wine*”? If not, please explain.

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of “*not addicted to much wine*”, and pledge to abstain, in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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**4. Not Fond of Sordid Gain:**

*A deacon must not be controlled by a desire for material things; not a cheat; does not believe ‘the end justifies the means’; honest in business dealings; a deacon must not abuse his office to make money — he cannot be bought [I Timothy 5:3-10].*

**[Personal reflection/examination:** In what way does your Christian commitment influence your business decisions both personally and professionally?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of “*not fond of sordid gain*”? If not, please explain.

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of “*not fond of sordid gain*” in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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- Do you practice biblical stewardship (literal 10% tithe of income to Southcliff for the general budget for unrestricted, non-designated use)? Explain how so (no dollar values, please).

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5. ***Holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience:***

[See Position Statement for further discussion] *A deacon's profession of his faith in the gospel must be marked by his humble and willing obedience to God's precepts and the scriptures to which he outwardly holds; his life is demonstrated by brokenness, and he is quick to repent and seek forgiveness when he sins. He keeps his unconfessed sin list short [II Corinthians 1:12, I Timothy 1:5].*

[Personal] reflection/examination: How would your wife / children / friends / co-workers describe the relationship between what you profess and believe, and what you practice regarding the basic biblical precepts and principles of your/our faith? (e.g. Do you 'walk the walk' or just 'talk the talk').

What do you understand is the relationship of your service in the office of deacon and maintaining a "clear conscience"?

➤ Are you in agreement with our understanding of "***holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience***"? If not, please explain.

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➤ Are you willing to live according to this understanding of "***holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience***" in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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6. ***Beyond Reproach:***

*There is no valid accusation of wrongdoing that can be made against him. No overt, flagrant sin can mar the life of one who must be an example for his people to follow. Blameless. Does not participate in any activity that would compromise his Christian influence.*

[Personal] reflection/examination: How does a deacon live a life beyond reproach? Are there any events/actions in your past that could rise to the level of a valid accusation by or from those in our church body for whom you will serve, or from the community of Fort Worth at large?

➤ Are you in agreement with our understanding of "***beyond reproach***"? If not, please explain.

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➤ Are you willing to live according to this understanding of "***beyond reproach***" in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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7. **Women [must] likewise [be] dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things:**

*A deacon's wife must also be serious in mind and character; not silly or flippant about important matters; they must be women of confidence and not gossips; alert, watchful, vigilant, clear-headed; a deacon's wife should be a devoted believer in Jesus Christ and, like her husband, absolutely trustworthy in all aspects of their lives and ministries.*

**[Personal]** reflection/examination: How would you / your children / friends / co-workers describe your wife's attitude and behavior concerning matters of importance?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of "**Women [must] likewise [be] dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things**"? If not, please explain.

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- Are you and your wife (if/when married) willing to live according to this understanding of "**Women [must] likewise [be] dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things**" in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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- Does your wife (if married) profess Christ as her personal Lord and Savior? ( ) YES ( ) NO

8. **Husband of One Wife:**

**[See Position Statement for further discussion]** "*A one-woman kind of man*" or a "*one-woman type of man*". *The issue is not the deacon's marital status, but his moral and sexual purity. A "one-woman man" is totally devoted to his wife (present or future), maintaining singular devotion, affection and sexual purity in both thought and deed.*

**[Personal]** reflection/examination: Recognizing that for men, moral and sexual purity is an area that as a leader we are most prone to fail, and recognizing the incredible access we have to pornographic/sexually explicit material (e.g. internet, TV, movies, printed materials, etc.), what precautions or steps have you/do you/will you personally take to "*...possess your own body in sanctification and honor...*" [I Thessalonians 4:3-8]?

Ask your wife (if married) how she would evaluate your "*singular devotion and affection to/for her*" (e.g. in the context of moral/sexual purity in both thought and deed) in your marriage both publicly and privately. Does she agree that your life aligns with and is increasing in this character quality?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of "**husband of one wife**"? If not, please explain.

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of **“husband of one wife”** in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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9. **Good Managers of [their] Children and their own Households:**

*A deacon’s home life, like his personal life, must be exemplary. He must be one who “rules” (presides over, has authority over) “his own house” (everything connected with his home, not merely his wife and children) “well” (intrinsically good; excellently).*

*A deacon’s children should be believers (Titus 1:6), well behaved, and respectful.*

- [Personal reflection/meditation:** How would your wife / children / family / friends / co-workers describe your home life? Are your personal affairs (finances, relationships, needs of your home and family) in reasonable order?

Are your children (if any) professing Christ as their Lord and Savior? If not, how would you describe where you perceive them to be in their journey towards faith in Christ? Are they active in a Bible believing church?]

- Are you in agreement with our understanding of **“good managers of [their] children and their households”**? If not, please explain

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- Are you willing to live according to this understanding of **“good managers of [their] children and their households”** in your service as deacon at Southcliff Baptist church? If not, please explain.

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Have you or your spouse ever been divorced? ( ) YES ( ) NO

- If so, provide the circumstances of the divorce, the biblical justification (divorce before becoming a believer; abandonment by unbelieving spouse; unfaithful spouse), and the relevant dates this/these event(s) occurred.

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## II. MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT

1. How long have you been a Southern Baptist? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Are you an ordained deacon? ( ) YES ( ) NO Date Ordained: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Place of ordination: \_\_\_\_\_
4. Contact information of place of ordination (pastor, phone number, address, etc.)  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Churches served as deacon:                      Dates, Contact Information:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_
6. In a typical month, how many times (1-4) do you attend the following :  
Sunday Worship \_\_\_\_\_                      Grow Group \_\_\_\_\_  
Discipleship/Mid-week \_\_\_\_\_
7. Please list the areas you are serving in now, and have served in previously at Southcliff Baptist Church (e.g. choir, Grow Group, discipleship, committees, etc.).  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_
8. Please list the areas you have served in at other churches.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_                      \_\_\_\_\_
9. Are you a church member of Southcliff Baptist Church? ( ) YES ( ) NO
10. When did you join Southcliff (month/year)? \_\_\_\_\_
11. When did your wife join Southcliff (month/year)? \_\_\_\_\_

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### III. DOCTRINAL QUESTIONS

1. Have you read the “Baptist Faith in Message” (copy enclosed)?  
( ) YES    ( ) NO
  
2. Is there any portion of the “Baptist Faith and Message” with which you disagree?  
If so, please explain.

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3. Please state in a short paragraph your beliefs about the three following subjects:

A. **Salvation by grace:**

B. **Authority of the bible:**



c. **Role of deacons in the church:**

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**IV. PERSONAL LIFE (Expound upon any of the following answers as you desire)**

1. In a typical week, how many times would you have a personal devotion time (prayer and bible study)?

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2. Have you in the past, and will you in the future give yourself to personal soul-winning?

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3. Is your wife in full agreement with your being part of the deacon ministry?

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4. Are you supportive of the pastor/elder, our ministerial staff team, and their vision for Southcliff Baptist Church?

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5. Are you willing to assist them in practical ways of caring for the needs of our church members?

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6. Please write a brief testimony of your conversion to faith in Jesus Christ.

**Thank you for your sincere responses. You will be contacted regarding the next phase.**

[For questions, please contact Dr. Carroll Marr or the Chairman of Deacons.]