

# Leadership at North Bushey Free Church (Baptist)



Serving the Church through leadership is about clearly defining, communicating and applying the purposes of the Church to the membership.

It's about building people up, inspiring them, motivating them, encouraging them and preparing God's people for works of service (Ephesians 4:12).

## The Diaconate

The Diaconate, together with the Minister, shall be responsible for the spiritual leadership, oversight and day to day administration of the Church. They shall act on behalf of the Church between Church meetings and work together as a team.

## A Deacons Role

As servant leaders the Deacons are expected to prayerfully reflect on the whole life of the Church, share in discerning God's vision and call for the future.

A Deacons role will include:

- Leading the Church meetings to help in the making of right decisions, making recommendations and participating in the work carrying out these decisions. The Deacons will have had a meeting before the Church meeting to have discussed, prayed and considered what God's will for a particular circumstance is.
- Guiding the Church in its spiritual growth and understanding of Biblical truth and application of the truth.
- Being a good example of Christian discipleship, 1 Timothy 3:1-3.
- Creating and maintaining unity within the Church, Ephesians 4:16.
- To facilitate good organisation and administration, including finances.
- Ensuring adequate pastoral care.
- Encouraging and promoting mission.

A Deacon needs wisdom which comes from listening to God.

Also we must not forget that the Deacons should offer regular prayer and encouragement for their Minister.

Each Deacon will take particular responsibility for the care and encouragement of a different area of Church life and mission. Therefore they may function in one or more of the areas listed above.

Certain duties will be carried out by Deacons depending on their gifts and skills. Both the Church Secretary and Treasurer are elected from the Diaconate by ballot. The Deacons can help welcome people, serve at Communion, pray with (and for) people, merely check and lock up the building and have other routine tasks as well as attending the Deacons meetings.

## **Qualities of a Deacon**

Ideally a Deacon should

- Live close to God and be faithful.
- Be a good example morally and spiritually, to be above criticism.
- Have self control, be respectable, gentle, peace loving and not a lover of money.
- Be well thought of in the wider community and a mature disciple of Jesus Christ.
- Show hospitality and encouragement to others.

## **How to become a Deacon at North Bushey Free Church (Baptist).**

In order to become a Deacon at North Bushey you need to have been a Church Member for over six months and over the age of twenty one years. Ideally you should be a baptised believer (according to the Fullers Trust) but if the majority of the Diaconate are baptised believers this can be reviewed at a later date. You may feel strongly that this is God's calling for you, have the qualities listed above and that you have something to offer the Church.

## **How to get elected on to the Diaconate**

If you think God is calling you and are considering becoming a Deacon it is advised that you speak to the Minister or one of the existing Deacons to pray and discuss your intentions. Please note that at North Bushey it is not permitted for a husband and wife to both serve on the Diaconate at the same time.

You will need to ask two Church members to nominate you in order to be elected. Your nomination must be given to the Church Secretary preferably two Church meetings before the Annual General Meeting of the Church. The Church Secretary can then tell the meeting of your intentions and we can pray for you during the weeks before you are to be voted for. The persons who have nominated you may like to say a

few words of recommendation and voting will take place by ballot at the Church meeting prior to the Annual Church Meeting.

If you are elected you will stand for a period of two years before having the option of standing down or being re-elected for a further three years. After that you will be eligible for re-election of another three years before having to take a sabbatical.

### **How to nominate someone**

Every Church member should pray, seeking that God will equip the Church with the best possible leadership. Approach the person you feel would be a good leader, has the appropriate qualities and would serve well on the Diaconate. If the person is agreeable support them in prayer and their discussion. They need to be nominated by yourself and one other Church member and then proceed as above.

Leadership is influence, it's not position, it's not title. It's the ability to influence people so they will follow.

**North Bushey's present Deacons are:**

Mrs. Esther Boughton

Mrs. Pat Dawes

Mrs. Anne Halliday

Mrs. Wendy Jones

Mr. Owen Harvey

**W.L.Jones.**

**Church Secretary**

**Amended January 2007**