



# *Ecclesia Christian Fellowship*

## **\* \* \* Deaconess Nomination Application \* \* \***

PLEASE PRINT OR TYPE. USE REVERSE SIDE IF MORE SPACE IS NEEDED FOR ANY QUESTIONS.

Date of application \_\_\_\_\_

Date submitted to ECF \_\_\_\_\_

Nominating Member \_\_\_\_\_  
*(Deaconess Nominee please fill out below)*

Name of Nominee \_\_\_\_\_

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

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Married \_\_\_\_\_ How long married \_\_\_\_\_ Single \_\_\_\_\_ Divorced \_\_\_\_\_

Husband's name \_\_\_\_\_

Children's names and age \_\_\_\_\_

Is your family in agreement with this nomination? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How long have you been a member of ECF? \_\_\_\_\_ Years \_\_\_\_\_ Months

Have you ever served as a deaconess at another church? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

If yes, please include the name of the church and how long you served.

\_\_\_\_\_

List any ministries you served in \_\_\_\_\_

Do you tithe (10% of your income)? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_.

If you checked "no" please read Malachi 3:8-10.

Will you support the mission of ECF? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. "Picking up the broken pieces in the lives of people by evangelizing the lost and disciplining the saved".

Will you support the vision of ECF? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_. "Creating Authentic Christians who abide in God's Word, walk in the Power of the Holy Spirit and actively fulfill the Great Commission".

By signing this nominee application, I realize I will be obligated to serve Ecclesia Christian Fellowship and I will not terminate this agreement of service unless definitely called to leave by the Lord. While realizing there are valid reasons to terminate, such as job transfer, health issues and other reasons, this is an obligation to our Lord and should be taken seriously.

After completely filling out this application please sign below. If you are married, please ask your husband to sign in agreement, then it should be given to the Deacon/Deaconess Ministry or the Administration Office.

Deaconess nominee Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee's husband Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

## **I. HISTORY – THE ORDER OF DEACONESSES.**

In the New Testament Church, when seven individuals were chosen to minister to widows and serve tables, all of them were men (Acts 6:1-6). Nevertheless, the New Testament does record the presence of women workers in the Church. Paul wrote to the Church at Philippi: "Help these women, for they have labored side by side with me in the gospel. . . (Philippians 4:3).

The ministry of a Deaconess is a ministry for women to provide pastoral care, especially for other women. There was such an order in the primitive Church. Although diakonos occurs twenty-nine times in twenty-seven verses in the New Testament, only one occurrence is feminine, the rest are masculine. Diakonos means a waiter, a servant. In the letter to the Romans, Paul wrote: "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deaconess (diakonos) at Cenchrea that you may . . . help her in whatever she may require of you for she has been a helper of many and of myself as well." (Romans 16:1-2).

Paul praised the women in many of his other letters. He made no reference to gender when he wrote to the Churches at Rome (Roman 12:1-8) and Corinth (1 Corinthians 12:1-3) about the gifts they have been given, the service expected of them and the oneness of the Church as the body of Christ. It seems inconceivable that Paul would exclude all the women of the Church when he said, "You are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Euodias and Syntyche (Philippians 4:2), and probably the association with which Dorcas was connected at Joppa (Acts 9:36-41), seem to have belonged to the order of Deaconess. The order did not cease to exist till the fifth century in the Latin Church, and till the twelfth in the Greek Church. It had its origin, probably, in the extreme jealousy which guarded the relations of the sexes in early times, for women were comparatively secluded from the society of men. Deaconesses were, therefore, appointed to maintain the religious interaction of Christian women with a Church whose ministrations were in the hands of men.

The only other possible occurrence of Deaconess is in [1 Timothy 3:11](#) where a very small minority of translators have translated [\*γυναικας\*](#) as deaconess instead of wives or women.

## **II. THE QUALIFICATIONS OF DEACONESSES.**

The Deaconess Ministry is based on the following scriptures:

**1 Timothy 3:8-12** – <sup>8</sup> Deacons/Deaconess likewise must be men/women of dignity, not insincere, not prone to drink much wine, not greedy for money, <sup>9</sup> but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. <sup>10</sup> These men/women must also first be tested; then have them serve as Deacons/Deaconess if they are beyond reproach. <sup>11</sup> Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. <sup>12</sup> Deacons must be husbands of one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. <sup>13</sup> For those who have served well as Deacons/Deaconess obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

The qualifications for a Deaconess are:

1. "Grave." Not given to flippancy, but sober in speech, gesture, and dress.
2. "Not slanderers." Not too ready to take up an accusation against anyone, or too ready to use the tongue in the way of false insinuation.
3. "Sober." Showing a seemly moderation when eating or drinking.
4. "Faithful in all things." Faithful in all ecclesiastical duties.
  - a. Faithful to the poor;
  - b. Faithful to the Church; and
  - c. Faithful to God in all spiritual obligations.

## **III. Role and Responsibilities of a Deaconess**

The office of Deaconess is one of ministry and service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and His church. The office of Deaconess is characterized by humility and service, not prestige and power. A Deaconess will assume a role as servant leader, spiritual compass, and model of Christian character for the entire congregation. The responsibilities of a Deaconess represent an opportunity to contribute significantly to ministry and are as follows:

1. A Deaconess is to be a servant of the church.
2. Assist the pastor in performing pastoral duties.
3. Be supportive of the overall ministry of the church.
4. Unless providentially hindered, participate in all activities of the Deaconess ministry, which will include scheduled meetings and training sessions.
5. Pray regularly for the church members, pastor, and staff.
6. Minister to assigned families of the congregation.

7. Assist in administering the Lord's Supper and participate in corporate worship.
8. Practice personal evangelism as opportunities arise.
9. To the extent possible, recognizing that your family is your first ministry, be actively involved in all aspects of church life; to include Sunday school and all worship services.
10. Actively serve in at least one other church ministry with Deaconess as priority.
11. Complete Biblical Base Classes 1, 2, & 3 and Pathway to Leadership (PTL).
12. Participate with Hearts in Focus (H.I.F.) monthly meetings.
13. Also, to grow spiritually Deaconess should be an active participant of a Home Unity Growth Group (H.U.G.G.) or Sunday School.
14. Assist with Baptisms.
15. Assist with communion, and In-home communion.
16. Assist the "First Responders" with the ladies who respond to the alter call.
17. Care for the emotional and spiritual needs of the women of ECF.

*How will we care for the emotional and spiritual needs of the women of ECF?*

- Our church membership will be divided into a number of groups.
- Each Deaconess will be assigned a group of single, widowed, and divorce women from ECF's membership list.
- Letters will be sent to the women of ECF introducing their Deaconess along with information on how to contact her when in need.
- Each Deaconess is then expected to contact the women on her list, within the first two weeks for a more informal conversation about the church, their family, and their specific needs; and,
- All women should be contacted by the end of the first month after receiving the list. After which a monthly contact is expected to stay connected.

These responsibilities are the least we expect you to do as service to the congregation of Ecclesia. You are free to do as the Holy Spirit would lead you to accomplish our goal of meeting their needs.

#### **IV. Deaconess Selection Process**

To be eligible for this honored office, each nominee must possess the biblical qualifications as set forth above. Qualified women are also, encouraged to nominate themselves.

1. The nomination form for the office of Deaconess shall be received from church members. The nomination period is January 1<sup>st</sup> through March 31<sup>st</sup>. Nomination forms may be obtained in the church office or online at [www.ecclesiachurch.com](http://www.ecclesiachurch.com). (Go to the Media tab).

2. The Deaconess ministry will contact each nominee to determine if she has the interest or desire to continue the selection process.
3. All nominations will be reviewed and as deemed necessary, interviews with candidates will be requested.
4. The Pastor could ask a nominee to remove her name from consideration based on one or more of the following criteria:
  - a. The nominee does not meet the biblical qualifications defined herein.
  - b. The nominee has demonstrated a pattern of personal practices that is unhealthy to herself and/or the ministry of the church family.
5. The Deaconess ministry will notify each candidate of his recommendation status.
6. Each recommended candidate will be presented to the church body during the Deacon/Deaconess ordination service, where they will be designated as a Deaconess-In-Training.
7. The Deaconess-In-Training will attend classes and be mentored for 11 months. In March she will go through the Deaconess Catechism. Upon successfully completing the Catechism she will be Ordained as a Deaconess in April.
8. The nominee must have completed the Biblical Base Classes.

***"The office of the Deaconess is one of service. Our purpose is to always service the Body of Christ. If you choose this office, realize that you have been chosen to serve."***

***Please return the first two pages to the Deacon/Deaconess Ministry or the Administration Office.***

*Revised 4/9/2022*