

## **Summit Ridge Church: Deacon of Care Ministry**

**Position Type:** Diaconal/Administrative

**Reports To:** Summit Ridge Elder Board (Dave Schlothauer)

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### **I. Purpose and Vision**

The purpose of the Care Ministry at Summit Ridge Church (SRC) is to provide oversight of a dedicated team of caregivers who utilize their spiritual gifts to serve the body. This ministry reflects the love, compassion, and values of Jesus by providing comfort, support, and practical assistance to individuals and families in need.

Our approach is Scripture-based, focusing on shepherding, serving, and equipping the church with the love of Christ. This is characterized by:

- **Compassion and Humility:** Serving the body with the heart of a servant.
- **Sacrificial Service:** Following the mandate that the greatest among us must be a servant (Matthew 23:11).
- **Strengthening the Body:** Equipping the saints for the work of ministry through teaching and prayer (Ephesians 4:11-12).

### **II. Scriptural Qualifications**

Deacons must be approved by the Summit Ridge Elder Board and meet the qualifications set forth in **1 Timothy 3:8-12**:

- **Character:** Must be worthy of respect, not hypocritical, not prone to excess (drinking), and not greedy for money.
- **Spiritual Integrity:** Must hold the "mystery of the faith" with a clear conscience.
- **Proven Track Record:** Must be tested first; if they prove blameless, they may serve.
- **Household Management:** Must manage their children and household competently. If married, the spouse must also be worthy of respect, self-controlled, and faithful in all things.

### **III. Communication Flow & Intake (The "Information Hub")**

The Deacon of Care serves as the primary liaison between the congregation, church staff, and the Elders.

#### **A. Information Intake**

The Deacon is the central point of contact for all care-related needs. Information enters the Care Ministry through:

- **Direct Referrals:** From Elders, Staff, or Small Group leaders.
- **Congregational Requests:** Needs identified through the "Care Request" email or church office.
- **Proactive Outreach:** Identifying needs through hospital/shut-in visitation teams.

#### **B. Reporting & Escalation**

- **Primary Liaison:** The Deacon provides regular updates to the Elders and Staff regarding current people in need.
- **Confidentiality:** All sensitive information is handled with a "clear conscience," ensuring privacy is maintained unless elder intervention is required.
- **Elder Escalation:** While the Deacon handles spiritual and physical comfort, any needs requiring intensive pastoral counseling or church discipline are immediately escalated to the Elders.

#### **IV. Primary Responsibilities & Tasks**

The Deacon of Care oversees the execution of diaconal tasks, including:

- **Sick & Shut-in Care:** Leading a team to provide spiritual and physical comfort through hospital and home visits.
- **Benevolence Coordination:** Facilitating with the Benevolence team to provide financial or resource-based care.
- **Practical Support:** Coordinating a team to assist with minor home maintenance and transportation to medical appointments.
- **Meal Coordination:** Managing a team that provides meals (via Meal Train) for families in seasons of crisis or transition.
- **General Service:** Serving in other capacities as the church has specific needs.

#### **V. Available Resources**

To fulfill these duties, the Deacon has oversight of and access to:

- **The Benevolence Team**
  - **The Transportation/Medical Assistance Team**
  - **The Home Maintenance/Mercy Team**
  - **The Prayer and Visitation Team**
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