

Now in those days when the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint by the Hellenists arose against the Hebrews because their widows were being neglected in the daily distribution. And the twelve summoned the full number of the disciples and said, "It is not right that we should give up preaching the word of God to serve tables. Therefore, brothers, pick out from among you seven men of good repute, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we will appoint to this duty. But we will devote ourselves to prayer and to the ministry of the word." And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolaus, a proselyte of Antioch. These they set before the apostles, and they prayed and laid their hands on them.

—Acts 6:1-6

What is a Deacon/Diaconate?

As defined in the Presbyterian Church in America's *Book of Church Order* (Chapter 9), the office of deacon is one of sympathy and service, after the example of the Lord Jesus; it expresses also the communion of saints, especially in their helping one another in time of need.

The Grace Seattle Diaconate is modeled after the Diaconate of the early church (Acts 6:1-6, 4:32-35), which addressed two needs: enabling pastors and elders to focus on ministry of word and prayer, and providing care for the needs of the church community.

It is our duty as deacons to minister to those who are in need, to the sick, to the friendless, to any who may be in distress, to determine effective methods of collecting the gifts of the people, and to distribute these gifts to those in need.

The deacons are under the supervision and authority of the Session (elders).

Why Contact the Deacons?

Contact the deacons if you, or someone you know, have social, emotional, physical, financial, and/or spiritual needs.

Deacon Contact Info

You can contact us at deacons@graceseattle.org, or at our individual email addresses:

Katheryn Frierson: katheryn@graceseattle.org

Lee Grooms: lee@graceseattle.org

Staci King: staci@graceseattle.org

Sarah McCrum: sarah@graceseattle.org

Bob Montgomery: bob@graceseattle.org

Esther Ortiz: esther@graceseattle.org

Nathan Ruhl: nathan@graceseattle.org

Nat Taylor: nat@graceseattle.org

Chris Verschuyl: chris@graceseattle.org

What Can the Congregation Do to Help the Deacons?

The members of the congregation should have a reciprocal responsibility to assist the deacons by being responsive to the ministry of care exercised by the deacons, to identify and share with the deacons events of crisis and/or celebration, and to respond to calls from the deacons to assist in providing for the needs of fellow church members.