

If there is a continuing need for the office of deacon in the church, should persons be chosen to fill this position who are competent to carry out the functions of the office?

(c) The qualifications for the office of deacon

Acts 6:3, 5-6 -- "But select from among you, brethren, seven men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom, whom we may put in charge of this task And the statement found approval with the whole congregation; they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch. And there they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them."

I Timothy 3:8-13 -- "Deacons likewise must be man of dignity, not double-tongued, or addicted to much wine or fond of sordid gain, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. And let these also first be tested; then let them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women (either deacons' wives or deaconesses) must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Let deacons be husbands of only one wife, and good managers of their children and their households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus."

If a candidate for this office does not have the requisite character, gifts, knowledge, time, health, energy, and either the "know-how" or the willingness to learn how to carry out these functions, he should not (with occasional exception) be chosen to this office.

(d) The ordination to this office

Acts 6:6 -- "And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them."

Again, ordination is simply a human recognition of God's ordination. The laying on of hands shows recognition of God's choice and approval to the whole church.

(3) Scriptural basis for other local church officers

There is no scriptural basis for other offices in the church, other than the general principles of expediency (as employed, for example, in Acts 6 and 15). Thus there is no specific scriptural basis for the offices of board member (unless this refers to a member of the board of elders or the board of deacons), steward, trustee, treasurer, sexton, or janitor. There is of course Old Testament basis for the office of musician (I Chronicles 15:16-22; 16:1-7, 37) and of doorkeeper or perhaps sexton (I Chronicles 15:23-24; 16:38, II Chronicles 8:14), but some would not admit such evidence because of the dispensational difference. And there is New