

# **The Work of Deacons**

Presented by John Lowe

**South Carolina**

**Baptist Deacons Association**

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# Diakonos

- By definition he/she is a servant or minister
- Whose servant is he or to whom does he minister
- See Acts 6:3
- By accepting the office, he serves three:
  - A servant of God
  - Commissioned (hired) by the Pastor
  - Selected (called) by the People

# Servant of God

- EVERY Christian's duty
- A deacon is a shining example of a life that
  - Seeks the good of all mankind
    - See Rom 13:8; 2 Co 12:14; Gal. 2:17,
  - Seeks Christ diligently
    - See Col 3:1; Heb. 11:6,14; 13:14
  - Genesis to Revelation applies

# Servant of the Pastor

- God did not appoint Deacons, the Apostles did
  - To what are deacons ordained at your church?
  - Ordained by definition is “put in order”
  - Know how “this business” is defined before you accept
  - Realize the next pastor has the authority to redefine “this business”
  - Understand tradition(not scripture) defines tenure

# Servant of the People

- The people CHOSE from *among* themselves
- The people looked for those who could handle “*this business*”
- The people *elevated* the seven for ordination
- With the permission of God and the Pastor, *do* **WHATEVER** *they need of you*, even if it not traditional

# What We Do: The Standard in 2016

- Serve Three Tables
  - The Poor
  - The Pastor
  - The Lord's Supper
- The Rest (List)
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# What We SHOULD Do

- Quench fires instead of starting them
  - Do more than required
  - Be a peace maker
  - Stay in your lane
- Help your membership grow spiritually
  - Be deacon, not ace
  - Understand spiritual gifts and how to develop
  - Lead others to learn the bible

# What We Should NOT Do

- Fight the pastor.
  - It is better to speak the truth in love, vote, let it go
- Everything the membership asks.
  - Vett through your deacons, pastor, and God if any doubt
- Come out (to serve) from among the people
  - Stay at work as you were before the people chose you



# Resources

- **National Baptist Deacons Convention of America,  
Deacon's Training Manual 2014**  
Deacon Robert Ransom, President
- **Huntley's Manual for Every Baptist**  
by Thomas Elliott Huntley, D.D., Sunday School Publishing Board
- **Please Don't Just Do What I Tell You:**  
Every Employees Guide to Making Work More Rewarding  
by Bob Nelson, Hyperion
- **What You Do Best in the Body of Christ**  
by Bruce Bugbee, Zondervan
- **The Peace Maker**  
by Ken Sande, Baker

## Rev. Thomas Elliott Huntley, D.D.

Birth: Jun. 25, 1903

Death: Sep. 27, 1983

A graduate of Morehouse College & Virginia Union Theological Seminary, Huntley became pastor of Central Baptist Church in St. Louis, Missouri in 1942. Pastor Huntley led the first national Negro Ministers Prayer march on Washington, D.C. in 1948, which sparked the proclamation for the first Civil Rights Bill by President Truman. His church hosted Dr. Martin Luther King's first sermon in St. Louis in 1961. He published the first edition of **Huntley's Manual for Every Baptist** in 1963.

