



Director of Soma Kids Role Description

Our Vision:

The Children's Ministry of Soma Eastside exists to make disciples who make disciples for the glory of God.

Our Four Key Values:

WELCOMED | SAFE | LOVED | VALUED

- Soma kids should *want* to come to our Sunday morning gathering because it is so fun and engaging
- Soma kids should feel known by adults and peers
- Soma kids should experience the Bible being taught in such a way that they hear, meet and encounter the God of the Bible in a life-transforming way
- Soma kids should not see the Bible as merely a jumping off point to teach morality or self-improvement
- Soma kids should see a bigger picture of the church community & engage with their parents in worship
- Soma kids should learn to practice spiritual disciplines such as communion, prayer, corporate prayer, meditation, worship, and tithing
- Soma kids should feel welcomed, safe, loved and valued

The Role of the Director:

The Director of Soma Kids is a loving follower of Jesus who works with others to make disciples who make disciples; teaching the gospel of grace creatively and clearly to kids between the ages of 0 and 12.

Responsibilities:

Oversee the spiritual health and effectiveness of our six Sunday Morning Kids Crews (Nursery, 2 – 4 year olds, PreK, Kindergarten -1st Grade, 2nd - 3rd Grade, 4th - 5th Grade) by

1. Casting Vision
2. Recruiting and Training Crew Leaders and Crew Captains
3. Researching and Purchasing Curriculum
4. Equipping Parents
5. Designing Sunday Morning Environments
6. Ensuring policies are in place for safety procedures, drop-off and pick-up as well as bathroom use
7. Praying for leaders and for kids
8. Planning Special events such as Easter, Christmas Eve and Fall Kick-off

The Office of Deacon at Soma Communities Eastside:

Theological Directives

The Leadership of Christ's church is of the utmost importance. We can see from the Bible that a church's spiritual health is highly dependent on the quality of its leadership. With this in mind, it is important for the elders of Soma Communities Eastside to articulate and act on the biblical directives that are given to us concerning the role of deacon in leading the church.

Role of Deacons

The New Testament mentions the office of deacon but it does not explicitly define the role of deacon. The role of deacons needs to be compiled from the meaning of the word "deacon", the various passages where deacons are mentioned, and the more clearly defined role of elders.

The term deacon comes from the Greek word *diakonos*, which means "servant". Any usage that we see in the New Testament has to do with a ministry or office of one who serves. We also see in the New Testament that our Savior came not to be served but to serve (Matthew 20:28). To be a deacon is an honor.

Both 1 Timothy 3:1-13 and Philippians 1:1 mention deacons alongside elders, so the two offices are distinct. Since the two offices are distinct, it can be helpful to understand the role of elders to differentiate it from the role of deacons. We can see from Acts 20:17-35 that elders are to shepherd the people in the church: teach the Bible and protect against false teachers. We also see in Acts 6:1-7 the principle that those who lead and teach the Bible should delegate the administrative and logistical tasks such as distributing food to faithful people so that they can focus on their primary responsibilities (for a similar example of this principle see Exodus 18:13-27). This principle and with the meaning of the word "deacon" lead us to believe that a deacon's role is to serve and follow the elders by helping to carry out the elder's vision for the ministry so that the elders can focus on their primary responsibilities of teaching the Bible, praying and overseeing the church.

Character Qualifications for Deacon

1 Timothy 3:8-13 outlines a clear set of qualifications for deacons. All who wish to serve as deacons in the church must meet these criteria.

- *Worthy of respect* – dignified honorable, noble, highly esteemed; men and women whom younger Christians want to be like.
 - *Sincere* – literally "not double spoken;" honest and truthful; careful in speech.
 - *Not indulging in much wine* – self-controlled with alcohol doesn't get drunk.
 - *Not pursuing dishonest gain* – not greedy; not "in it for the money" (i.e. they aren't serving in hopes of eventually getting paid by the church).
 - *Must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience* – hold to sound theology; understand and articulate the gospel as their only hope in life; no discrepancy between what they profess and how they live.
 - *Must first be tested* – proven faithful over time; stand up under examination.
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- Requirements for Female Deacons
 - *Not Malicious talkers* – not slanderers or gossips
 - *Temperate* – clear minded; self controlled in habits.
 - *Trustworthy in everything* – totally reliable; doing well in all life roles (wife, mother, etc.)
 - Requirements for Male Deacons

- *A one-woman man* – faithful to wife; sexually pure.
- *Manages his children and household well* – leads, manages, and provides for his family; kids respect and obey their father.

These requirements can be summarized by saying that a deacon should be spiritually mature. They are not required to be able to teach like elders are (though it is wonderful and helpful if they can!) but they should be able to model maturity to the people around them.

Women and the office of Deacon

One of the key questions regarding the office of deacon is whether or not to encourage women to serve as deacons. The pattern throughout the entire Bible is male leadership in the church and the home. Just as husbands/fathers are the lead their families, men are to lead the family of families that is the church.

There are two main passages that involve women and the office of deacon. In Romans 16:1 Paul writes “I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a [διακονος] in the church in Cenchrea.” The word *διακονος* can be translated as ‘servant’, which would mean that Phoebe was merely a servant in the church, or it can be translated as ‘deacon’, which would mean that she had the position of deacon in the church in Cenchrea.

In 1 Timothy 3:11 as Paul is discussing the requirements for deacons he writes “in the same way, [γυναικας] must be respected and must not slander others. They must exercise self-control and be faithful in everything they do.” Here the word *γυναικας* can be translated as ‘wives’. Which would make these requirements apply to the wives of the male deacons, or it can be translated as ‘women’, which would make these requirements apply to women deacons. Since the word can legitimately have either meaning we need to look at the surrounding context to help determine the meaning Paul had in mind when he wrote the letter. When Paul lays out the requirements for elders in vv.1-7 he does not mention women or wives at all. It seems strange to lay down requirements for the wives of deacons but not also lay them down for the wives of elders, since elders have the higher leadership position. Why would having a spiritually immature wife disqualify a man from serving as a deacon but not from serving as an elder? Because of this, it is our conviction that *γυναικας* is correctly translated as ‘women’, and this encourages us to have women (such as Phoebe) to serve as deacons in the church.

With the theological and character directives that we gain from the Bible in mind, here are some additional expectations for the Director of Children’s Ministry. Our Director will hold the office of Deacon and be someone who:

- **Is able to understand and articulate the Gospel, especially in the area of personal life.** Who is Jesus to you? What has he done for you and how has the cross affected your life? What is the Gospel? How does it affect your life and family [example: your use of money, your marriage; if applicable, your work, your relationships, etc.]
- **Shows a willingness to spiritually lead other children’s ministry team members.** How do you bring the gospel to bear in light of the members of your team? How do you pray for them? How do you lead them spiritually? Where are you leading them? This deacon must be willing to lead, guide, encourage, organize, remind others of the faith, pray for and comfort/admonish the team members.
- **Continually develops skills.** The deacon will work with the overseeing elder to find other churches and organizations to learn from. Some examples may be: attend a volunteer workshop or conference on ministry to children and families, read a certain book on doing gospel-centered children’s ministry, communicate with other Soma churches to find out how they handle children’s ministry.

The Soma Kids Director will report to the Elders of Soma Eastside Church