



Diaconal
Summit II

Session-Deacon Needs Case #1 Worksheet:

Scott

Situation

Scott has been a member of your congregation from childhood, and now as a young man has recently married a fine Christian woman. He has a successful landscaping business of his own, which has continued to be profitable, despite the recession, due to his hard work. However, as a result of some administrative negligence on his part, he has been hit with some hefty fines from the IRS for not submitting his taxes in a timely way. His home finances have also been neglected, with the result that the family credit cards have acquired unhealthy balances, and his utilities have once or twice been cut off temporarily due to late payments. This has put some considerable stress on his young marriage, and Scott has begun to drink too much in response to his woes. The deacons have become aware of all this through Scott's wife, who has unburdened herself to one of the deacons' wives.

Level of Support

- Reporting to an elder on assistance given
- Conferring with an elder prior to and during assistance
- Pairing up with a shepherding elder in ongoing financial and pastoral counseling
- Assembling a team of members, in addition to an elder-deacon team, to provide assistance
- Referring a need to the Session as one primarily pastoral in nature

Notes

Rationale



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Session-Deacon Needs Case #2 Worksheet:

Tom

Situation

Tom, with his wife and three children, is a member of your congregation with an exemplary testimony and ministry. The recession necessitated a demotion and cut in pay for him at his place of employment, but due to frugality and the careful management of his funds, he has succeeded in making ends meet. A recent accident involving yard equipment brought serious injury to his hand, and necessitated a series of surgeries for Tom. Though Tom has insurance through his company, it is a high deductible policy, and the deacons have become aware that the medical bills outweigh his ability to pay them in a timely manner.

Level of Support

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Notes

Rationale



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Session-Deacon Needs Case #3 Worksheet:

Jake

Situation

Jake has had an excellent job in a local business for 25 years; however, recently he quit his job in order to pursue full-time a home business with his wife. When the business did not develop as anticipated, Jake and his wife took out a second mortgage on the house in order to pay their bills, but those funds have been depleted, and he has been racking up large balances on his credit cards. Recently the deacons have learned that Jake is contemplating filing for bankruptcy to escape his creditors; however, he still remains optimistic about his home-business turning around. Jake has not asked for diaconal assistance, but from what they know of the situation, the deacons are concerned that Jake is headed for financial disaster.

Level of Support

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Session-Deacon Needs Case #4 Worksheet:

Frank

Situation

Frank is a recent parolee who has been introduced to your congregation through the prison ministry. He has made a vibrant profession of faith, and has recently been admitted to membership. Because he is a convicted felon, it has proven very difficult for him to find suitable employment, though he has been very diligent with the odd jobs that have come his way. As deacons you have provided occasional financial assistance to him since he was released from prison. Eventually, however, it was discovered that Frank had lapsed into a former addiction to prescription medications. When confronted, he was repentant, and agreed to enroll in a Christian rehabilitation center. He is now about to be released from rehab after an apparently fruitful time, but the deacons are convinced that in addition to ongoing pastoral counsel and diaconal assistance, Frank is in need of extensive support and accountability in order to steer clear of the temptations of his past life.

Level of Support

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Session-Deacon Needs Case #5 Worksheet:

Cheryl

Situation

Cheryl is a single, middle-aged woman in your church who has held a job as an office assistant for many years. She is a faithful member of the church, though she has periodic struggles with depression. Because her income is very modest, she has approached the deacons multiple times over the years with various requests for financial assistance. Though many of the needs have been judged legitimate, the deacons have grown in their concern that Cheryl has begun to show an entitlement mentality. This concern has been accentuated as they have sought to give counsel regarding better budgeting habits, and this counsel has been met with resistance. Cheryl has come again recently with a request to the deacons for assistance with her rental payment.

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