

Yokefellows

The Yokefellow Ministry is comprised of a group of men who serve alongside and under the nurturing supervision of the active deacon body. Yokefellows help deacons--in partnership with the Pastor and Ministry Staff--accomplish the pastoral ministries of the church.

DEACON MINISTRY TEAMS (Yokefellows in parentheses)

I. NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION AND TRAINING TEAM

Task - Minister to all new members by giving them orientation to the church, to Baptist distinctives in faith and practice, and assimilation into the fellowship of the church.

II. REACHING AND RECLAIMING TEAM

Task- Lead in ministry actions that reach people evangelistically for Christ and that reclaim inactive church members who may feel hurt, resentment, or apathy.

III. GRIEF AND CRISIS MINISTRY TEAM

Task- Minister to church members and others experiencing grief whether from death, divorce, loss of job, significant loss of property, or any other kind of grief-producing loss.

WHAT IS A YOKEFELLOW?

Yokefellow - "fastened together." Two working together for a common goal (accomplishing the deacon ministry). No one person has all the temperament and skills to do every job. A team makes strengths productive and weaknesses irrelevant.

Each of us is to be a "yokefellow" with Jesus Christ: "[Take my yoke upon you and learn of me](#) "(Mt. 11:29)

Paul, in [Phil. 4:3](#) referred to one of his fellow workers as a yokefellow: "[Yes, and I ask you, loyal yokefellow, help these women.](#)"

The concept of being teamed with another person is a common teaching in the scripture: Paul and Bamabus, Paul and Silas, Barnabus and Mark, etc. Like the deacon, a yokefellow is...

a servant to Jesus Christ and to the church to which he belongs.

A yokefellow is a man who "checks out" in the areas of

- *Desire for spiritual growth*
- *Attitude of humility and teachability*
- *Caring deeply about the future of God's Kingdom*
- *Showing servant leadership in the home*
- *A lifestyle that reflects well on the Savior and on our Church*

A yokefellow differs from a deacon in that

- *He is not ordained*
- *He serves only for a year, which may be renewed*
- *He attends deacons meetings only as requested*

Some yokefellows may go on to become deacons, but some will not. But being a yokefellow strengthens the impact of deacon ministry and widens the circle of friendship and ministry in our church among Christian men.