

The following is a short summary of the orders and rules given to the office Deacons by the revelation of God in Father Joseph Meacham at the time when the Church was set in order in this place.

In relation to the Office Deacons their lot is of great importance therefore great responsibility rests upon them. But notwithstanding the greatness of their labor and care, if they walk in the fear of God, and improve their time strength and talents (saith Father Joseph) in building up the Church of Christ upon earth in the temporal line, they will purchase to themselves honor and glory and great boldness in the faith.

We will now proceed to rehearse some of the most important orders and

governments as established by Father Joseph to be kept sacred the Office Deacons, and firstly As the Deacons hold all the joint interest in the Church it is binding on them to see that there is a prudent and saving use made of all things under their care, that there be no damage or loss come thro' their neglect

secondly as this lot was established as a barrier or defence between the Church and world, therefore all buying and selling, all trading and dealing with the world of mankind must be done by and thro' the agency and order of this lot. If there should be any gifts grants or donations offered to the Church it is the duty of the Deacons in all such cases to ask counsel of the spiritual lead whether it can be accepted as a part of the joint interest or not

thirdly It is binding upon the Deacons to use and improve the joint interest of the Church for the benefit of the members members thereof, by providing all thing necessary for their support comfort and ease convenience according to their ability. It is also the duty of the Deacons to provide what is necessary into the Church for the use of the members ~~that shall be equally divided~~ between the orders according to their numbers and needs.

fourthly It is the duty of the Deacons to protect the joint interest of the Church by making all lawful defence in points of law and equity.

fifthly Never to involve the Church in debt to the world. Nor to make large contracts as buying houses and lands without the joint union of the Church. To be upright in their dealings with all men. Never to take usury or interest of the believers of other orders for money or other articles lent to them. All contracts and dealings of much importance must be done by the office Deacons or Deaconess as the case may be, \*with other orders of believers

sixty As the first lot of Deacons of which we are now speaking as Father Joseph said are called in a special manner to be peacemakers. Therefore it is of great importance that <sup>they</sup> keep a cordial union with all the Elders and Deacons in the Church, that they may have a full understanding of all the temporal consorts of each order in the Church.

seventy if the Deacons should want the assistance of any of the common members that would take them out of their common occupation it is order for them to apply to the family Deacons and not to the individual members. The Deacons were required to keep a strict account of all the out goings and incomings of the Church so that they could see at any time whether they were losing or gaining ground and be able to give an account to the spiritual lead; for all things ~~most~~ pertaining to the office and office deacons must be kept naked and open to the inspection of the spiritual ~~so far~~ lead so far as they require it.

It is the duty of the Deacons to inspect all articles that are made for  
sail that the Church be not reproached for selling unmarketable articles.

If strangers or any people of the world should come and want to go to the work shops or round among the brethren and sisters (if it is admitted) then it becomes the duty of one of deacons to go with them that the spirit of world may be kept under government, and if the office deacons cannot attend to it, then it falls upon the family decons to see to it.

It may be proper now to mention one thing that lay with heft upon Father Joseph's mind that is, to remember the poor, the afflicted the widow and fatherless of this world. That charity might be ministered to them with a bountiful hand. For said he one housekeeper noticing all the time

Here is another important duty that is binding on the office Deacons in relation to the Ministry, that is to say. The Spiritual Ministry who are established by the revelation of God, are God's mouth to the people, therefore they can never hold deeds of land nor <sup>titles to</sup> great estate, nor can they sign covenants or contracts in relation to temporal property; But must receive their temporal support by the gifts and free-will offerings of the people, hence as the office Deacons hold the temporal property of the Church, it is the first and greatest duty of the Deacons to see that the beloved Ministry are provided for in all temporal thing according to their needs (of which they the Ministry must be their own judges) that they may be able to devote their time and strength to their spiritual ministration according to the commandment of Christ.

Father Joseph said that Union and Order must go together or there could be no pure spiritual Church relation supported.

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