



# Dea. Bruce Merrick

CHAIRPERSON OF THE DEACON MINISTRY

Dea. Bruce Merrick was ordained at St John Baptist Church in November 2010, and was appointed Chairperson of the Deacon Ministry in January 2011. Starting with his maternal grandfather, he is the 10th ordained deacon in his family.

Since joining St John Baptist Church (SJBC) in 1992, Dea. Merrick has served the church in multiple roles. From a planning perspective, he contributed to St John's Long Range plan developed in 2007 and subsequently served as Facilitator for the development and implementation of both the 2011-2013 and 2014-2016 SJBC Strategic Plans.

Dea. Merrick shared his knowledge of the management of grief and loss by conducting discussion and support groups for members experiencing bereavement as well as giving presentations during the Christmas season for those facing "holiday depression".

Dea. Merrick's passion for the education of young people led to the creation of workshops for high school students and their parents to acquire knowledge and develop skills in applying to colleges and obtaining scholarships and grants to fund their college education. Most recently, he has been the keynote speaker for St John's Scholarship and Graduate Recognition Awards Program.

Dea. Merrick serves on the St John Baptist Church Board of Trustees and the Family Resource Center Board of Trustees.

Dea. Dr. Merrick earned the Ph.D. in Psychology from Louisiana State University.