

Licensed Lay Ministry

A Guide to Faithful Calling



this page left intentionally blank

Overview

A Licensed Lay Minister...

- Is faithful in praying, working, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God
- Is a baptized and confirmed communicant in good standing
- Has been faithful in corporate worship for the past year
- Is part of the worshipping community at a parish and is known to the clergy and vestry
- Has completed formation and continuing education required for this ministry
- Understands that the guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of ministry are established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry
- Completes all required Safe Church training and background check(s)

Parish-Trained Licensed Lay Ministries:

- Eucharistic Visitor
- Eucharistic Minister
- Worship Leader

Diocesan-Trained Licensed Lay Ministries:

- Preacher
- Evangelist
- Catechist

Diocesan-Trained Certification:

- Pastoral Care Certificate with a Eucharistic Visitor License

How to Begin the Pathway for Licensed Lay Ministry

If you are discerning a call to ministry, you should contact your Rector or priest-in-charge. You should attend a Here I Am event for more information about beginning the discernment process. For more information or questions, you can contact Emily Bruner Doane ebrunerdoane@dioet.org or call 870-926-9521.

Title III, Canon 4, Section 1(a)

A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as... Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Evangelist, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.

Licensed Lay Ministry Process

DISCERNMENT ~ LICENSURE ~ RENEWAL

DISCERNMENT PHASE

- Attend *Here I Am* Day
- LLM Discernment Application
- Attend Bexley-Seabury Discernment Course
- Clergy Conversations
- Mutual Application
- Licensed Lay Ministry Committee Interview

LICENSURE PHASE

- Licensed Lay Ministry Committee meets with Supervising Clergy (Diocesan facilitators are included for Lay Preachers)
- Recommendations for Licensure are presented to the Bishop
- Commissioning at Parish Service

FORMATION PHASE

- Complete coursework through Bexley-Seabury (Episcopal Lay Preaching cohort will also complete coursework with Episcopal Preaching Foundation and Diocesan Facilitators)
- Upon completion, Discerners will meet with the Licensed Lay Ministry Committee

RENEWAL

- Requirements include
- Recommendation of Supervising Clergy
 - Continuing Education - attend at least two LLM Continuing Education events/gatherings per year

Parish-Trained Licensed Lay Ministry



Eucharistic Minister

Description

As defined by Canons: A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Knowledge Base

- A clear understanding of the Episcopal approach to the sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- Familiarity of the role of the Eucharistic minister in the liturgy and how it differs from the role of the clergy
- Familiarity with the Eucharistic liturgy, including the words and mechanics of the service, and the variety of rites and prayer options
- Familiarity with methods of intinction

Competencies

- Administer the consecrated elements appropriately and methods of Intinction
- Demonstrates an awareness and sensitivity to people with special needs, such as elderly, those with disabilities, and children
- Deal with unexpected occurrences related to administering the sacraments

Formation

Eucharistic minister training occurs at the parish level under the direction of a member of the clergy exercising oversight of the congregation.

Duration of License & Renewal

A Eucharistic Minister will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years have passed, the licensed lay Eucharistic Minister should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Eucharistic Visitor

Description

As defined by Canons: A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Knowledge Base

- General familiarity with the Book of Common Prayer
- Basic knowledge of sacramental theology and a clear understanding of the Episcopal approach to the sacrament of Holy Eucharist
- An understanding of when and how to report pastoral needs

Competencies

- Demonstrates basic pastoral care skills such as respecting confidentiality and active listening
- Administer the consecrated elements in various settings
- Practical aspects of transporting the consecrated elements and the disposition of and/or return of any remaining to the church
- Ability to paraphrase sermons
- Communicate and inform parish clergy of issues that may be of concern

Formation

Eucharistic Visitor training occurs at the parish level under the direction of a member of the clergy exercising oversight of the congregation.

Duration of License & Renewal

A Eucharistic Visitor will be licensed for up to 1 year at a time. Before or immediately after 1 year has passed, the licensed lay Eucharistic Visitor should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Worship Leader

Description

As defined by Canons: A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Knowledge Base

- History of the Daily Office
- Canons and rubrics regarding lay leadership of worship
- Liturgy- an understanding of the role of worship leader
- The Daily Office (morning, noonday, evening, compline, daily devotions)
- Revised Common Lectionary
- Lesser Feasts & Fasts
- Enriching Our Worship 1
- Online resources
- Authorized hymnals

Competencies

- Leading Daily Office in the absence of a priest
- Demonstrated use of voice in leading public worship

Formation

Training should also include:

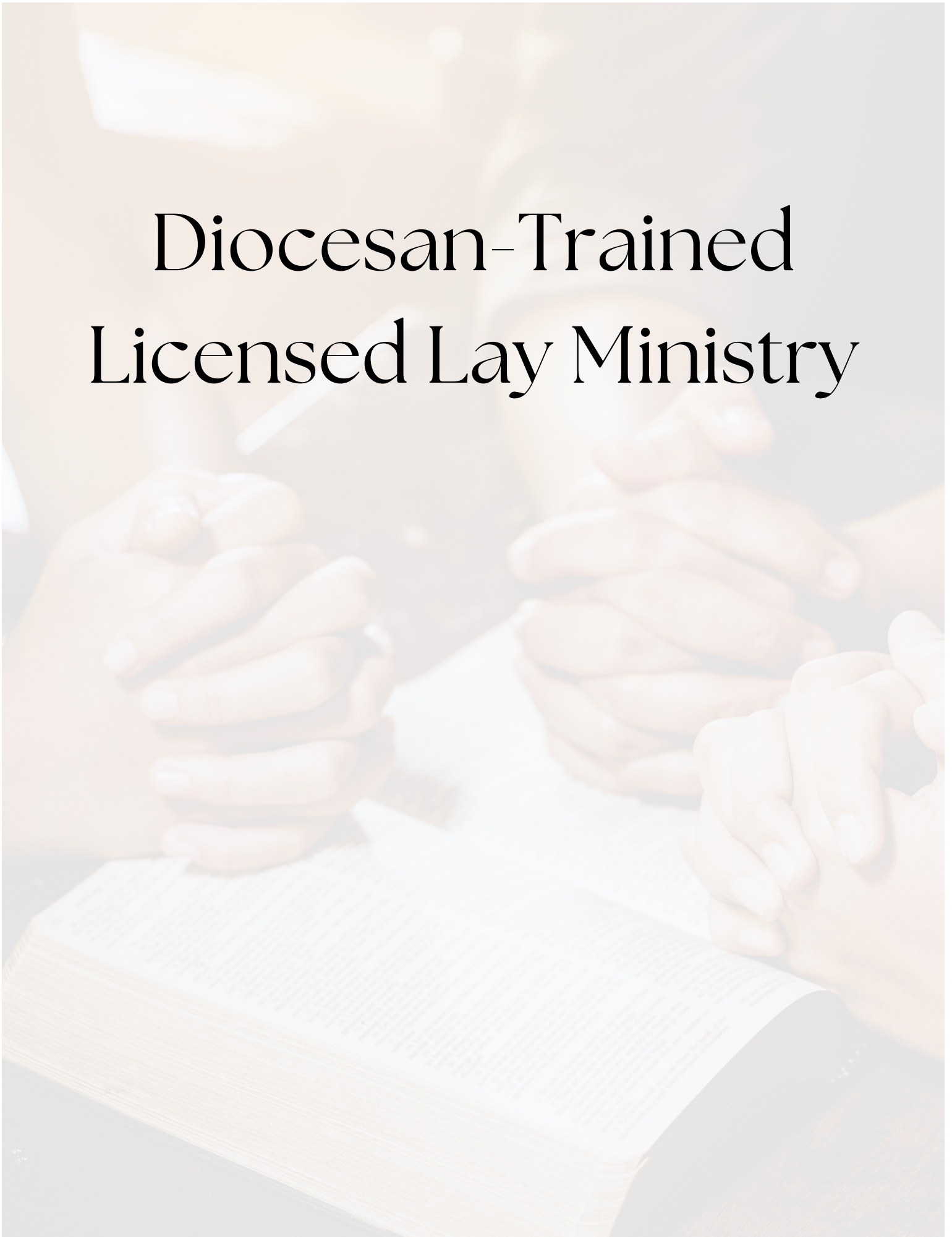
- A period of mentored-officiating
- Instruction on how to access and use essential online resources (ex. bcponline.org, lectionarypage.net, dailylectio.net)

In addition to encouragement of parishes to provide this training, we also lift up Bexley-Seabury's Pathways for Baptismal Living course, Worship Leader Course.

Duration of License & Renewal

A Worship Leader will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years have passed, the licensed lay Worship Leader should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Diocesan-Trained Licensed Lay Ministry



Lay Preacher

Description

As defined by Canons: A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach. Persons so authorized shall only preach in congregations under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Knowledge Base

- Contents and background of Holy Scripture
- Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal
- Church history
- Christian ethics and moral theology
- Episcopal liturgical practice
- The church's doctrine as set forth in the creeds and An Outline of the Faith

Competencies

- Use methods of exegesis in sermon preparation
- Demonstrated use of the voice in conveying the message of a sermon
- Preaching in context of liturgical experience
- Preaching to feedback
- Preaching (preparing the preacher, preparing to preach, framing and constructing a sermon)
- Understanding of diverse contexts

Formation

The Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee partners with the Episcopal Preaching Foundation (EPF) to provide training using curriculum and mentor training from the EPF Lay Preacher Training Initiative.

Duration of License & Renewal

A licensed lay Preacher will be licensed for up to 1 year at a time. Before or immediately after 1 year has passed, the licensed lay Preacher should have had opportunities to practice their ministry; received review of manuscripts prior to preaching; continued to develop their skill and spirituality; and should receive an assessment of their good standing.

At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Catechist

Description

As defined by Canons: A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Knowledge Base

- Contents and background of the Holy Scriptures
- Contents and history of the Book of Common Prayer (especially the Catechism)
- Church history (development of the early church, Anglican/Episcopal church history, general development of Christian theology and doctrine)
- Church doctrine as set forth in the creeds and "An Outline of the Faith," commonly called the catechism, with particular reference to baptism and communion
- A general knowledge of the canons, polity, structure, and decision-making processes in the Episcopal Church and Anglican Communion
- Major methods of catechesis

Competencies

- Plan Catechesis programming for different age spans
- Develop and lead formational offerings geared specifically for baptism and confirmation preparation

Formation

The Diocese of East Tennessee recognizes Bexley-Seabury's Pathways for Baptismal Living Faith Formation for Leaders Training as the source for forming licensed lay catechists.

Duration of License & Renewal

A licensed lay Catechist will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years has passed, the licensed lay Catechist should have had opportunities to practice their ministry; received review of curriculums prior to teaching; continued to develop their skill and spirituality; and should receive an assessment of their good standing.

At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Evangelist

Description

As defined by canons: A licensed Evangelist is a lay person who presents the good news of Jesus Christ in such a way that people are led to receive Christ as Savior and follow Christ as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. An Evangelist assists with the community's ministry of evangelism in partnership within the Presbyter or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation, or as directed by the Bishop.

Knowledge Base

- Understand why evangelism matters in the Church today
- Recognize that evangelism is about lived witness in the world
- Understand the interior formation required for evangelical witness, including the development of one's own faith narrative and contemplative practice
- Identify your particular calling as an evangelist in your own context- how you will seek, name, and celebrate the Good News where God has placed you

Competencies

- Articulate how personal faith experience and God's redemptive story intersect, and develop skill in communicating this witness to others
- Demonstrate confidence inviting others into faith conversations
- Demonstrate the ability to talk about your own faith journey with authenticity
- Reflect on how will you become part of the Good News in your community and invite others into God's work
- Confer with clergy and work with other parishioners to share the Good News of Christ

Formation

The Diocese of East Tennessee recognizes Bexley-Seabury's Pathways for Baptismal Living for their online course for licensed lay Evangelist.

Duration of License & Renewal

A licensed lay Evangelist will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before 3 years have passed or immediately after, the licensed lay Evangelist should have had opportunities to practice their ministry; received feedback of evangelistic programming; continued to develop their skill and spirituality; and should receive an assessment of their good standing.

At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

Glossary

catechesis

Systematic instruction and formation of adults for baptism, initiating them into the mysteries and life of Christian faith. This instruction is not merely informative but intended to form one's outlook on life, values, and identity as a Christian. The instruction takes place in the context of the prayers and life of the Christian community. It is based in the scriptures, creeds, and prayers of the church. The period of this instruction and formation is known as the catechumenate.

communicant

All Members of the Episcopal Church who have received Holy Communion at least three times during the previous year are to be considered Communicants of this Church.

communicant in good standing

All Members of the Episcopal Church who for the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God, are to be considered Communicants in Good Standing.

confirmed

It is expected that all Adult Members of this Church, after appropriate instruction, will have made a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and will have been confirmed or received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church or by a Bishop of a Church in full communion with this Church. Those who have previously made a mature public commitment in another Church may be received by the laying on of hands by a Bishop of this Church, rather than confirmed. This may be a requirement for specific leadership roles as defined by the Constitution and Canons of this Church and its constituent bodies.

consecrated element

Bread and wine that are consecrated in the eucharist

evangelism/evangelist

Through the spiritual practice of evangelism, we seek, name and celebrate Jesus' loving presence in the stories of all people — then invite everyone to more.