

## Licensed Lay Ministries

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 Bishop to serve as Pastoral Leader, 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. (IV.1.a)

### Definitions of Ministries

A **Pastoral Leader** is a lay person authorized to exercise pastoral or administrative responsibility in a congregation under special circumstances, as defined by the Bishop.

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.

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.

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.

An **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 with the Presbyter or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation, or as directed by the Bishop.

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.

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.

### Discernment and Training

Those seeking licenses for Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Catechist, or Evangelist must enter a period of discernment with the clergy in charge or, in the absence of such clergy, with the Bishop. A revised version of the Discernment process used for ordination is then applied

to any such persons. Training will be determined on a case by case basis. However, an intensive process of formation should be expected. For instance, completion of the four-year course of Education for Ministry and additional tutorials by clergy would be standard.

Discernment and training for Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors occurs at the congregational level. The priest in charge, or someone appointed by the Bishop, will provide instruction and request in writing licensing from the Bishop.

Licenses for all lay ministries are for three years. Except for Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors continuing education is required. Renewing any license requires additional training prior to renewal.