



Section 2: Licensed Lay Ministries

Doc. 2B: Worship Leader

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.

Applicants for the ministry of Worship Leader are required to participate in a Discernment Conference before applying to the Bishop and appearing before COMB.

The Worship Leader is a confirmed communicant in good standing functioning with the permission of the Bishop and under the direct supervision of the congregation's Priest-in-Charge. Once licensed, the Worship Leader functions solely at the discretion of the Priest-in-Charge and is licensed to lead worship only in the congregation in which the Worship Leader is a member at the time of licensing. The Worship Leader may be given special permission by the Bishop to lead worship in other circumstances or in other congregations provided he or she has received an invitation to do so from the Priest-in-Charge of the congregation. A Worship Leader may preach the sermon, if he or she is also a licensed Preacher, or if not a licensed Preacher, may deliver a sermon provided by an ordained priest canonically resident or licensed to officiate in the Diocese. The Worship Leader, under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge, will pursue Diocesan-approved continuing education.

Training

Applicants for the ministry of Worship Leader will be trained under a program devised by EICS appropriate to this ministry, and, if necessary, modified according to the applicant's previous education and experience. The program may be primarily self-study or distance study and may include reading material, seminars, webinars or actual courses. The areas of study are:

- The Book of Common Prayer and its authorized supplements
- Conduct of public worship
- The Sacraments
- An understanding of the unique liturgical roles of lay people, priests, and deacons
- The Hymnal and other authorized musical resources
- Use of voice
- Safeguarding God's Children
- Anti-Racism Training

The applicant for Worship Leader must also meet all the requirements for licensing of Eucharistic Minister.

Certification

The term of a Worship Leader License is three years with required annual reviews by the Priest-in-Charge or the Bishop. The license may be renewed at the discretion of the Bishop upon evidence of Diocesan-approved continuing education and the needs of the congregation as determined by the Bishop.

Documentation

The Priest-in-Charge will maintain a confidential personnel file for the Worship Leader that shall contain the following:

- Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above under "Training"
- A copy of the application sent to the Bishop by the Priest-in-Charge
- A copy of the certificate from the Bishop licensing the person to be a Worship Leader

Documentation of licensing of Worship Leaders will be maintained and displayed in the parish.