

# Lay Catechist

Title III, Canon 4, Section 8

## Description:

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 (BCP pp 845-862). They are also prepared to assist parish clergy in the ongoing ministry of Christian formation. Additionally, they are prepared to assist the bishop in teaching the faith in diocesan mission congregations, new church plants, and other small parishes as the bishop may request. Their work in the diocese is overseen by the bishop, and in each congregation by the rector or vicar.

Although all Episcopalians are called to fulfill their Baptismal Covenant, some are gifted by the Holy Spirit to teach, to share knowledge of the Word with others in our community of faith through formation.

*The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. (Eph. 4:11-13 NRSV)*

The Lay Catechist License informs and appropriately challenges members of our Church, enabling them to form and deepen discipleship through teaching.

## Qualifications:

- Nominated by the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge
- Nomination endorsed by the vestry/bishop's committee
- Confirmed communicant in good standing
- Displays in his or her life the values reflected in the Baptismal Covenant
- Committed to celebrating diversity and championing anti-racism
- Regular and faithful attendance in worship
- Adept at proclaiming and manifesting the Good News in a way that other church members desire to better know God in Christ
- Adept at presenting, small group facilitation, collaboration, leading/facilitating difficult conversations, and considering feedback
- Exhibits a particular call for to teach the apostolic faith "once delivered to the saints" (Jude 1:3)
- Demonstrates knowledge of the Gospels and Hebrew Scriptures by:
  - a. Completion of EfM years One and Two, or
  - b. Completion of four semester-long courses in New and Old Testament at School for Ministry or other accredited college, university, or seminary, or equivalent, or

- c. Other demonstrated proficiency in Scripture approved by the Bishop
- Demonstrates knowledge of church history and doctrine, the Book of Common Prayer by:
  - a. Completion of EfM years Three, and Four, or
  - b. Completion of a **four semester courses in Church History and Theology** at the School for Ministry or other accredited college, university, or seminary, or equivalent, or
  - c. Other demonstrated proficiency of the Book of Common Prayer approved by the Bishop
- Demonstrates knowledge of methods of catechesis by:
  - a. Completion of an EfM mentor training, or
  - b. Completion of a **half-semester** course on teaching and/or group facilitation at School for Ministry or **a course at another** accredited college, university, or seminary, or equivalent, or
  - c. Other demonstrated proficiency in methods of catechesis approved by the Bishop.

## Steps to Obtaining Lay Catechist License

### Step One: Nomination

- Requires nomination by rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge
- Nomination endorsed by the vestry/ Bishop's committee

### Step Two: Training

- Engages in training provided and/or prescribed by the diocese.

### Step Three: Commissioning

- Upon completion of all diocesan training requirements, including Safeguarding God's People and anti-racism training, commissioning by the Bishop.

## Outcomes to Obtaining Lay Catechist License

- Licensees receive a foundation for teaching in the context of Scripture and present day
- Licensees are empowered and encouraged to form and deepen discipleship through teaching
- Licensees are prepared to teach the faith to new Christians and young people preparing for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of their Baptismal Vows, in conjunction with local clergy or the bishop.