

Lay Evangelist

Title III Canon 4, Section 9

Description

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.

Although all Christians are called to share the good news of Jesus Christ with the world, some Christians are gifted, by the Holy Spirit, and for the benefit of the Church, as “Evangelists.”

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 Evangelist License recognizes, encourages and empowers our lay people as gifted leaders of our Church, and helps enable them to their work of equipping saints for the work of ministry.

Qualifications:

- Nominated by the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge
- Nomination endorsed by the vestry/bishop's committee
- Confirmed (or Received) communicant in good standing
- Displays in his or her life the values reflected in the Baptismal Covenant
- Exhibits a particular call for enabling evangelistic ministry within a congregation.
- Committed to celebrating diversity and championing anti-racism
- Regular and faithful attendance in worship
- Exhibits a particular call to connect the secular world to the church so that those outside the Church might come to know God in Christ
- Adept at proclaiming and manifesting the Good News in a way that others desire to know God in Christ
- Adept at gathering and leading groups

Steps to Obtaining Lay Evangelist 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 as 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 Evangelist License

- Licensees will have received a foundation for practicing Evangelism in a post-modern context
- Licensees will be empowered and encouraged to lead and serve as congregational and diocesan Evangelists, proclaiming the good news of Jesus and helping to equip the saints for evangelistic ministry
- Licensees will be able to lead groups of congregants through small group ministry in the study of evangelism.
- Licensees will be able to launch and lead evangelistic efforts in their congregations (missional communities).