

Lay Preacher

Title III, Canon 4, Section 5

Description:

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.

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

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 Preacher License recognizes and empowers our lay members as gifted leaders of our Church and enables them in their quest to personally experience the Word.

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
- 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
- Completed coursework in homiletics at educational institution approved by the Bishop
- 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 public speaking

Steps to Obtaining Lay Preacher 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 Evangelist License

- Licensees will have received a foundation for preaching in the context of Scripture and present day
- Licensees will be empowered and encouraged to preach the good news of Jesus
- Licensees will be able to launch and lead small group discussions on Scripture in their church