



The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

THE MINISTRY OF THE LAITY

By virtue of our baptism, we are all Christian ministers. The Holy Spirit authorizes and empowers every baptized person to carry on various ministries for the good of and on behalf of the congregation. For some, this means being called to ordained ministry. For most of us, this means we become actively involved in lay ministry or ministries. Moreover, there is a corporate reason for a greater focus on the formation and development of lay liturgical ministry. The lack of clergy in rural smaller congregations gives us the opportunity to look creatively, carefully and confidently at the way worship is conducted. In some cases, under the shepherding of clergy, licensed ministers may extend the ministry of Word and Sacrament to their congregations.

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WORSHIP LEADER

As defined by Canons: The worship leader is authorized to lead public worship in the absence of, and/or at the direction of, a bishop or priest, subject to direction of the Book of Common Prayer. A licensed worship leader is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing called to lead worship in the congregation.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF A WORSHIP LEADER:

- + Ability to work collaboratively with other members of the parish and for the good of the community.
- + Deep relationship with God and a personal commitment to the ministry of the church.
- + Spirituality, centered in public worship, as exemplified in long-term regular faithful participation in the worship of the church.
- + A strong, clear, balanced, and articulate voice.
- + A person who has a concern for order and details without being obsessed by minutiae.
- + The ability to share the spotlight with others and not dominate when in charge.

FORMATION PRIOR TO LICENSURE - Successful completion of the School for Ministry program "Worship Leader". The curriculum will consist of ten, four-hour, in-person sessions located at a site in Pensacola. Tuition is being finalized. Formation topics will include:

- + Hebrew Testament Foundations
- + New Testament Foundations
- + Foundations of The 1979 Book of Common Prayer
- + Liturgical Rites and Roles Foundations
- + Practical Training
- + Voice/Proclamation History and purpose of proclamation
- + Sacramental Foundations: History and Praxis
- + Anglican History & Spirituality Identity
- + Pastoral Care Foundations
- + Music Resources/Usage Copyright Hymnody Theology

LICENSE - Worship Leader will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years have passed, the licensed lay Worship Leader should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

ONGOING SUPPORT AND FORMATION - All licensed worship leaders will meet regularly with either the priest-in-charge of their local congregation or with a clergy shepherd assigned by the Bishop. All licensed worship leaders shall be expected to participate in a diocesan cohort that will meet quarterly with a clergy facilitator assigned by the Bishop or the Bishop's staff designee. This cohort provides a space and structure for people to come together to continue formation and help each other address shared challenges and opportunities.

PREACHER

As defined by Canons: 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.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF A PREACHER - Those called to the ministry of preaching will possess:

- + Deep relationship with God and a personal commitment to the ministry of the church
- + Be the kind of people who spur others to action.
- + Be open to God's leading in their lives and prayerful in their approach to this ministry.
- + Be intelligent, open-minded, and committed to lifelong learning.
- + Have a sense of humor about themselves and the congregation.
- + Have compassion for the oppressed and be tolerant of differences and diversities among people, yet not be afraid to confront in love.
- + Spirituality, centered in public worship, as exemplified in long-term regular faithful participation in the worship of the church.
- + A strong, clear, balanced, and articulate voice.

FORMATION PRIOR TO LICENSURE - Successful completion of the School for Ministry program "Preacher". The curriculum will consist of ten, four-hour, in-person sessions located at a site in Pensacola. Tuition is being finalized. Formation topics will include:

- + Hebrew Testament Foundations
- + New Testament Foundations
- + Sermon Preparation
- + Homiletical Resources Discerning use of resources in sermons
- + Hermeneutics
- + Voice/Proclamation History and purpose of proclamation
- + Sacramental Foundations: History and Praxis
- + Anglican History & Spirituality Identity
- + Pastoral Care Foundations
- + Preaching Practicum

LICENSE - Preachers will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years have passed, the licensed preachers should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

ONGOING SUPPORT AND FORMATION - All licensed preachers will meet regularly with either the priest-in-charge of their local congregation or with a clergy shepherd assigned by the Bishop. All licensed preachers shall be expected to participate in a diocesan cohort that will meet quarterly with a clergy facilitator assigned by the Bishop or the Bishop's staff designee. This cohort provides a space and structure for people to come together to continue formation and help each other address shared challenges and opportunities.

PASTORAL LEADER

As defined by Canons: “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.” The pastoral leader serves the congregation’s caring ministries among members and in the local community. The pastoral leader shares in identifying needs for pastoral care, responding to grief or crisis, and coordinating congregational response efforts. The pastoral leader is a confirmed adult communicant in good standing and functions under the direction of the member of the clergy who exercises oversight of the congregation.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF A PASTORAL LEADER:

- + Deep relationship with God and a personal commitment to the ministry of the church.
- + Be open to God’s leading in their lives and prayerful in their approach to this ministry.
- + Able to work collaboratively with other members of the parish and for the good of the community.
- + Has basic knowledge of Holy Scripture.
- + Is a good listener.
- + Understands necessity of confidentiality.
- + Seeks and listens for significant thoughts, ideas, and feelings of the person or group.
- + Have compassion for the oppressed and be tolerant of differences and diversities among people, yet not be afraid to confront in love.
- + Spirituality, centered in public worship, as exemplified in long-term regular faithful participation in the worship of the church.

FORMATION PRIOR TO LICENSURE - Successful completion of the School for Ministry program “Pastoral Leader”. The curriculum will consist of ten, four-hour, in-person sessions located at a site in Pensacola. Tuition is being finalized. Formation topics will include:

- + Facilitation of Community Organizing.
- + Family Systems and Human Awareness.
- + Preparation for Mission: moving from reflection to action.
- + Missional Leadership.
- + Conflict Resolution.
- + The Holy Ground Model for pastoral conversations.

LICENSE - Pastoral Leaders will be licensed for up to 3 years at a time. Before or immediately after 3 years have passed, the licensed leader should receive some refreshing of their training and assessment of their good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that their license be renewed or that they pursue other ministries within the church and give room for others to practice this ministry.

ONGOING SUPPORT AND FORMATION - All licensed pastoral leaders will meet regularly with either the priest-in-charge of their local congregation or with a clergy shepherd assigned by the Bishop.

EVANGELIST

As defined by the Canons: 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.

PERSONAL QUALITIES OF AN EVANGELIST:

- + Ability to work collaboratively with other members of the parish and for the good of the community.
- + Has a deep relationship with God and a personal commitment to the ministry of the church.
- + Has a deep desire to hear and embrace the stories of others.
- + Looks for God in the common occurrences of life, in the lives of others, and in unlikely places.
- + Had a desire for all people to have the opportunity to connect with God and celebrate the work of God as they experience it.
- + Demonstrates a willingness to lead and empower others.
- + Has strong communication skills.
- + Can be flexible.

FORMATION PRIOR TO LICENSURE - Successful completion of the School for Ministry program "Evangelist". The curriculum will consist of ten, four-hour in-person sessions located at a site in Pensacola, FL. Tuition is being finalized. Formation topics will include:

- + Anglican Spirituality and Identity
- + The Spiritual practice of Episcopal Evangelism
- + Practical Training
- + Basics of Community Organizing
- + Pastoral Care Foundations
- + Team Building and Management
- + Story sharing

LICENSE - An Evangelist will be licensed for up to three years at a time. Before or immediately after the three years have passed, the licensed lay Evangelist should receive some refreshment of his/her training and assessment of good standing. At this time, a member of the clergy with oversight and responsibility for this ministry can recommend that a license be renewed or that the licensee pursue other ministries within the church in order to give room for others to practice this ministry.

ONGOING SUPPORT AND FORMATION - All licensed worship leaders will meet regularly with either the priest-in-charge of their local congregation or with a clergy shepherd assigned by the Bishop. All licensed Evangelist shall be expected to participate in a diocesan cohort that will meet quarterly with a facilitator assigned by the Bishop or the Bishop's staff designee. This cohort provides a space and structure for people to come together to continue formation and help each other address shared challenges and opportunities.

***Suggested Discernment Questions for the Lay Evangelist** - What does Evangelism mean to you? How have you experienced the love of Christ? How do you experience God in your daily life? Share a story of God at work in a person or place you did not expect to find God working. Where do you see the life-giving and liberating love of Christ at work in your community? How might the Church help others connect with God outside the walls of the sanctuary or parish hall?