

The Episcopal Diocese of Montana

LICENSED MINISTRIES

Preamble:

All baptized people are called to ministry, to carry on Christ's resurrectional work of reconciling the whole world to God. All the baptized are given spiritual gifts to use in their respective ministries. The focus of the ministry of lay persons is the world: the family, the workplace, the community. Evangelism, justice and environmental issues, stewardship, and fellowship are areas of special concern for lay persons. A few of the baptized are called to carry out Christ's resurrectional work of reconciliation primarily in the Church. Worship, theology, proclamation, and pastoral care would be areas of focus, and the special concern of deacons, priests and bishops is Word and Sacraments. Licensed ministries are certain tasks, traditionally related to ordained ministry, that are carried out by lay people, usually because of the press of work of the local priest; in this sense, they are deemed extraordinary ministries. Because the bishop has responsibility for Word and Sacraments in the diocese, a license from the Ordinary is needed for these extraordinary ministries.

General Comments:

Those who serve as licensed ministers should be selected, trained, and supervised by the rector/vicar of the congregation/cluster.

The license is issued by the bishop for three years upon the recommendation of the local priest. The license can be withdrawn by the bishop at any time. The license is issued by the bishop, because he is responsible for the worship and ministry of the diocese.

People holding a license should be respected members of the congregation, confirmed, and active in the congregation for at least two years.

All licensed ministers shall be trained by the priest (or in the case of Eucharistic visitors, by the deacon, if available), and that training should be careful and complete. This training should be completed before a license is requested.

EUCHARISTIC MINISTER

"A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist." (Title III, Canon 4, Section 6 of the Canons of the General Convention)

Duty: To assist in the administration of the chalice during Holy Eucharist.

Notes:

1. The Eucharistic Minister is used only when there are not sufficient priests and deacons to administer the chalice.
2. The Eucharistic Minister is encouraged to wear a vestment; a cassock and cotta/surplice, or an alb, are appropriate.
3. The Eucharistic Minister should not stand at the altar during the Great Thanksgiving.

Training should include the following:

1. A brief theology of the Eucharist as laid out in the Book of Common Prayer.
2. Practice in careful, modest, and dignified administration of the chalice, as well as liturgical deportment in general.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR

“A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration.” (Title III, Canon 4, Section 7 of the Canons of the General Convention)

Duty: to deliver the consecrated Bread and Wine to confined members of the congregation.

Notes:

1. The Sacrament should be taken directly and immediately from the Eucharist to the hospital or home of the confined member of the congregation.
2. Since this activity has been since the earliest days of the Church the responsibility of a deacon; a Eucharistic Visitor should function only when a deacon is not available.
3. A record of visits should be maintained by the rector/vicar, and is subject to review by the Ordinary.

Training should include the following:

1. A brief theology of the Eucharist as laid out in the Book of Common Prayer.
2. How to handle the administration of the Sacrament in a sensitive way.
3. How to officiate properly at “Communion Under Special Circumstances” in the Book of Common Prayer, which service shall always be used in the home or hospital visit.

WORSHIP LEADER/LAY READER

“A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship.” (Title III, Canon 4, Section 4 of the Canons of the General Convention)

Duty: To lead Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer, and, the Office for the Burial of the Dead in the absence of a cleric and in the congregation of which the worship leader is a member.

Notes:

1. The Worship Leader should have the ability to read and speak well in public, and to work competently with the Book of Common Prayer.
2. The Worship Leader will be vested; cassock and cotta/surplice, or an alb, are appropriate.
3. The Worship Leader may read sermons prepared by the rector/vicar or those from The Episcopal Church web-site.

Training should include the following:

1. Working knowledge of the Holy Scriptures.
 2. The ability to plan a service of Morning or Evening Prayer.
 3. Training in liturgical deportment and use of the voice.
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LAY CATECHIST

“A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.” (Title III, Canon 4, Section 8 of the Canons of the General Convention).

Duty: To conduct classes to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and for sponsors/godparents and children for First Communion.

Notes:

1. The Catechist should work closely with the rector/vicar to prepare the goals, outline and study materials for the classes.
2. The Catechist should make use of the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer, especially the Outline of Faith.
3. The Catechist will endeavor to promote in the students a lively faith and committed participation in the congregation.
4. The Catechist should be known in the congregation as a person of deep commitment to Christ and the Church.
5. Safe-Church and Anti-Racism training are required.

Training:

1. The Catechist should have completed the Education for Ministry (EFM) program.

LAY PREACHERS and PASTORAL LEADERS are not currently being licensed in the Diocese of Montana.



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