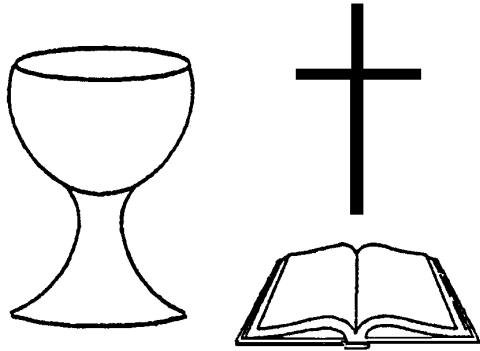


LICENSED

MINISTRIES



**IN THE
DIOCESE OF WESTERN MICHIGAN**

from: Office of the Bishop
Commission on Worship
Commission on Ministry Within the Church

There are six forms of licensed or appointed ministries described in the Canons of the Episcopal Church (Title III, Canon 4): Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, and Catechist. **Persons serving as licensed or appointed ministers are expected to embody a mature Christian lifestyle, reflecting love for and desire to serve Christ in others. Regular participation in the life of the parish, especially in the weekly celebration of the Eucharist, is expected.**

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. (Title III, Canon 4.3). A Pastoral Leader must receive training and be examined and found competent, by the bishop or the Bishop's designee, in the following areas: Holy Scriptures, content and background; the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal; the church's doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of the Faith (BCP pp. 844-862); pastoral care; parish administration; appropriate canons; prevention of sexual misconduct training.

A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. (Title III, Canon 4.4) The chief function of the Worship Leader is to lead regularly scheduled public worship. Private or small-group worship (e.g., a service of Compline at the close of a Vestry meeting) does not require licensing, and is not covered by this canon. Training for this office is required and is overseen by the Bishop or his designee. In most cases the Bishop has designated responsibility for training to the rector or cleric in charge of each congregation. The training should cover the following areas: Holy Scripture, contents and background; the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal; the conduct of public worship; and the use of the voice.

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. (Title III, Canon 4.5) A Preacher must receive training and be examined and found competent, by the Bishop or the Bishop's designee, in the following subjects: Holy Scriptures, contents and background; the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal; Church

history; Christian ethics and moral theology; the Church's doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of the Faith (BCP pp. 844-862); appropriate canons; pastoral care; homiletics; the conduct of public worship; and the use of the voice. This training is the responsibility of the cleric in whose charge the Preacher will serve.

A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. (Title III, Canon 4.6) Persons licensed in this ministry must receive training in the history and theology of the Eucharist and in the practical aspects of their ministry. Training is overseen by the Bishop or the Bishop's designee. The Bishop has designated responsibility for training of the cleric in whose charge the Eucharistic Minister will serve.

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 of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. (Title III, Canon 4.7) Some of the basic abilities required of Eucharistic Visitors are adapting quickly to new or unusual situations, feeling comfortable in a hospital or health care facility environment, and being a good listener. Eucharistic Visitors are expected to commit time and energy to learning and acquiring the pastoral and liturgical skills necessary to develop their ministry, to devote ongoing time to prayer and study, and to receive supervision and support in their ministry. Persons licensed for this office must receive training in the history and theology of the eucharist and in pastoral care, including a period of actual practice under the direct supervision of clergy .Training is overseen by the Bishop. The Bishop has designated responsibility for training to the clergyperson in whose charge the eucharistic minister will serve. More detailed guidelines are available from the diocesan Commission on Worship. The liturgical form, "Distribution of Holy Communion by Licensed Persons," is in the 2003 Book of Occasional Services, (p. 323), and the Commissioning Service is (p. 189.)

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. (Title III, Canon 4.8) A Catechist must receive training and be examined and found competent, by the Bishop or the Bishop's designee, in the following subjects: Holy scriptures, contents and background; the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal; church history; the church's doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of the Faith (BCP, pp.844-62); methods of catechesis.

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LICENSES for the offices of Worship Leader, Lay Eucharistic Minister/Visitor, Preacher, Catechist, and Pastoral Leader are obtained from the Bishop at the request of the clergyperson in charge of a congregation. These licenses must be renewed every three years. The office of Lector is appointed by the clergyperson in charge of a congregation and does not require a license.

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Information about opportunities for Christian growth, for licensed lay ministers and others, is available from the diocesan office (269-381-2711). These include the Education for Ministry program (EFM); spiritual direction (a registry of spiritual directors is maintained by the Commission on Ministry within the Church); the Christian education resource center; and the catechumenate. Education, and training for lay liturgical ministries, are also available through the Whitaker School of Theology in the Diocese of Michigan (22750 Woodward, Suite 200, Ferndale, MI, 48220; 313-398-0529).

Please feel free to copy this brochure for use in your congregation.