



Episcopal Church in Idaho Lay Ministries Policy

Policy Title: Training, Licensing, and Renewal for Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders

Purpose:

This policy establishes the requirements for the training, licensing, and ongoing formation of lay persons serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders within the Episcopal Church in Idaho. The purpose is to ensure that all individuals undertaking these vital ministries are properly prepared, authorized, and committed to ongoing spiritual and practical development, thereby upholding the dignity of worship and the integrity of pastoral care.

Scope:

This policy applies to all lay persons seeking to serve or currently serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lay Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders in any congregation within the Diocese of Idaho.

Policy Statements:

1. Training Requirement:

All individuals desiring to serve as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Preacher or Worship Leader must successfully complete a training program approved or recognized by the Diocese of Idaho. This training will cover the theological, liturgical, and practical aspects relevant to the specific ministry role.

2. Parish Approval:

Upon successful completion of the required training, candidates must receive approval from their parish priest. In the absence of a priest, approval may be granted by the Senior Warden. This approval signifies that the parish leadership

affirms the individual's readiness and suitability for the ministry.

3. Application for Diocesan Licensing:

After receiving parish approval, the candidate must complete and submit the official application form for diocesan licensing to their parish priest or Senior Warden. The application itself will include a section for a short recommendation and signature from the priest or Senior Warden, serving as proof that the individual has completed the necessary training. The priest or Senior Warden will then forward the application to the Diocesan Office. This process ensures that local leadership is aware that the individual has completed the necessary training and is being put forward for licensing.

4. License Renewal and Continuing Education:

Once licensed to serve in their respective roles, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, and Worship Leaders are required to renew their license every five years. Renewal is contingent upon the completion of a continuing education event or program relevant to their ministry. This ongoing education ensures continued growth and competence in their service.

5. Reporting Continuing Education:

Upon completion of the continuing education event or program, the licensed lay person must report this to their Rector or Senior Warden. This report should briefly describe the activity and its relevance to their ministry.

6. Submitting Renewal Request:

The licensed lay person, in coordination with their parish leadership, is responsible for submitting the renewal request to the Diocesan Office prior to the expiration of their current license.

7. Diocesan Expiration Notification:

The Diocesan Office will notify licensed lay persons when their license is due to expire. This notification will be sent through their respective parish office to ensure timely communication and facilitate the renewal process. However, the ultimate responsibility for timely renewal rests with the individual and their parish.

Review:

This policy will be reviewed periodically by the Bishop and the Diocesan Council to ensure its continued relevance, effectiveness, and alignment with the liturgical and pastoral needs of the Diocese.