

Eucharistic Minister

Title III, Canon 4, Section 6

A Eucharistic Minister is a lay person authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister 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.

Discernment

Candidates considering the ministry of Eucharistic Minister should confer with sponsoring clergy, spiritual directors, their Congregational Commission on Ministry, and other vocational guides to discuss honestly how to test a call.

Discernment Questions for those discerning a call to this ministry:

- How have I experienced God's grace in my life?
- Have I asked God whether God might be calling me to this ministry?
- What would I tell someone if asked, "What is important to know about God?"
- What is ministry and what are things that I do that are ministry?
- What does the Baptismal Covenant mean to me?
- Who are persons who have been most influential in my growth as a Christian and what did I learn from them?
- How do I understand the mystery of the Eucharist?
- What is my experience of receiving the Eucharist?
- What gifts do I have that would be an asset for this ministry? What particular gifts do I bring now, and what gifts do I hope to develop/grow?
- What do I hope to help people understand or experience through my service as a Eucharistic Minister?

Expectations

A confirmed adult communicant in good standing, prior to licensing, should be able to:

1. Describe his or her sense of call to this ministry orally and in writing to the Congregational Commission on Ministry.
2. Demonstrate respect for the theological mystery of the Sacrament.
3. Demonstrate familiarity with the Eucharistic liturgy, including the words, the mechanics of the service, and the variety of rites and prayer options.
4. Demonstrate the ability to administer the chalice appropriately.
5. Demonstrate the ability to administer, using the approved method of intinction.

6. Demonstrate the ability to deal appropriately with people who are accustomed to doing intinction differently.
7. Demonstrate the ability to administer the paten appropriately.
8. Demonstrate awareness and sensitivity to people with different needs, such as children or people with disabilities.
9. Demonstrate knowledge and respect for local Eucharistic customs.
10. Complete all required Diocesan Safe Church Trainings. These trainings are available both through in-person training events and online training programs. Visit norcalepiscopal.org/safechurch for more details.

License Renewal

Licenses may be renewed by the Bishop for an additional three-year period. The supervising clergy person must send a letter on church letterhead to the Office of the Bishop certifying that:

1. The licensee has faithfully practiced his/her licensed ministry
2. The licensee participated in appropriate continuing education.
 - a. This education may include informal classes with supervising clergy, approved workshops or seminars, or suggested reading.
 - b. Formation and enrichment to strengthen ministers, such as retreats, quiet days, spiritual development activities, prayer workshops etc. at the discretion of supervising clergy.

Training and Study Resources

Online Resources

- Curry, The Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael. 2014. *Eucharist: The Rt. Rev. Michael Curry*. New Tracts For Our Times. YouTube. Accessed October 20, 2015.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=USOMZpGheBc. The Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Curry speaks about the unity and beauty of the Eucharist.
- Sweeney, Sylvia. 2008. *An Introduction to Liturgical Leadership: A Workbook for Training Eucharistic Ministers*. Diocese of California, Department of Faith Formation. Accessed October 20, 2015.
www.diocal.org/sites/default/files/images/docs/faith_formation/workbook_1it_lead.pdf

Books for Individual or Group Study

- Atkinson, Clifford W. 1988. *A Lay Minister's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*. Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Ely, Beth Wickenberg. 2012. *The Cup of Salvation: A Manual for Eucharistic Ministers*. Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Malloy, Patrick. 2008. *Celebrating the Eucharist A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers*. New York: Church Publishing Inc.
- Maynard, Beth. 1999. *Meditations for Lay Eucharistic Ministers*. Morehouse Publishing Co.

Note: The Eucharistic Minister should comply with the general canons regarding licensed lay ministries found in Title III, Canon 4, Sections 1 and 2.

Constitution & Canons. Together with the Rules of Order for the Government of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, otherwise known as The Episcopal Church. Adopted and Revised in General Convention, 1789-2012., 2012, New York, New York, Church Publishing Incorporated.

CANON 4: Of Licensed Ministries

Sec. 1 (a) A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Evangelist, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.

(b) The Presiding Bishop or the Bishop Suffragan for the Armed Forces may authorize a member of the Armed Forces to exercise one or more of these ministries in the Armed Forces in accordance with the provisions of this Canon. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons shall be established by the Bishop granting the license.

Sec. 2 (a) The Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith may request the Ecclesiastical Authority with jurisdiction to license persons within that congregation or other community of faith to exercise such ministries. The license shall be issued for a period of time to be determined under Canon III.4.1(a) and may be renewed.

MINISTRY CANON III.4.3-8

The license may be revoked by the Ecclesiastical Authority upon request of or upon notice to the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

(b) In renewing the license, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall consider the performance of the ministry by the person licensed, continuing education in the licensed area, and the endorsement of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith in which the person is serving.

(c) A person licensed in any Diocese under the provisions of this Canon may serve in another congregation or other community of faith in the same or another Diocese only at the invitation of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight, and with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority in whose jurisdiction the service will occur.