

# Eucharistic Visitor

Title III, Canon 4, Section 7

*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.*

## Discernment

Candidates considering the ministry of Eucharistic Visitor 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?
- What does the Baptismal Covenant mean to me?
- What is ministry and what are things that I do that are ministry?
- 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?"
- How do I understand the mystery of the Eucharist?
- What are my experiences of receiving the Eucharist? What experiences have I had with the Eucharist being brought to myself or my family?
- 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 Visitor?

## Expectations

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

1. Describe their sense of call to this ministry and define their understanding of the Eucharist and what it means to be a Eucharistic Visitor, orally and in writing to the Congregational Commission on Ministry.
2. Demonstrate appropriate social skills for meeting and dealing with people.
3. Demonstrate basic pastoral skills such as reflective listening and respect for confidentiality.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of when and how to report pastoral needs.

5. Demonstrate appropriate methods of getting assignments and reporting visitations completed.
6. Demonstrate familiarity with and ability to use the authorized liturgy for Eucharistic Visitors. The liturgical form to be used is from *The Book of Common Prayer* (1979) or a form specifically approved by the Bishop.
7. Demonstrate ability to paraphrase sermons.
8. Demonstrate the proper way to prepare the vessels and reserved Sacrament for transport and use.
9. Demonstrate the proper way to care for vessels and unused reserved Sacrament.
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](http://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](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=USOMZpGheBc). The Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael Curry speaks about the unity and beauty of the Eucharist.
- The Episcopal Church. 1979. *Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church: Together with the Psalter Or Psalms of David According to the Use of the Episcopal Church*. Web author: Charles Wohlers. Accessed October 20, 2015.  
[http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/formatted\\_1979.htm](http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/formatted_1979.htm) Online files with the sections of the BCP in RTF, MSWord and PDF formats.
- Spannaus, Tim. *Eucharistic Ministry with Tim Spannaus*. ChurchNext. Accessed October 20, 2015. [www.churchnext.tv/school/catalog/course/eucharistic-visitation-with-tim-spannaus/](http://www.churchnext.tv/school/catalog/course/eucharistic-visitation-with-tim-spannaus/). This is a video training course online.
- Sweeney, Sylvia. 2008. *An Introduction to Pastoral Care: A Workbook for Training Eucharistic Visitors*. Diocese of California, Department of Faith Formation. Accessed October 20, 2015.  
[www.diocal.org/sites/default/files/images/docs/faith\\_formation/workbook\\_pastcare.pdf](http://www.diocal.org/sites/default/files/images/docs/faith_formation/workbook_pastcare.pdf)

### Books for Individual or Group Study

- Ely, Beth Wickenberg. 2005. *A Manual for Eucharistic Visitors*. Moorehouse Publishing.
- The Episcopal Church. 1979. *Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church: Together with the Psalter Or Psalms of David According to the Use of the Episcopal Church*. New York: Church Publishing Inc.
- Forward Movement. 2004. *The Administration of Holy Communion by Eucharistic Visitors*. Pamphlet from *The Book of Occasional Services*. Includes additional prayers: For Strength and Confidence, For Those Who Live Alone, For the Aged, For Those We Love, For Guidance, and For Quiet Confidence.

*Note:* The Eucharistic Visitor 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.