

Evangelism Facilitator

Title III, Canon 4, Section 9

An Evangelist is a lay person who presents the good news of Jesus Christ in such a way that people are led to receive Christ as Savior and follow Christ as Lord in the fellowship of the Church. An Evangelist assists with the community's ministry of evangelism in partnership with the Presbyter or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation, or as directed by the Bishop.

Recognizing that all Christians are called to be evangelists, the Commission on Ministry of this diocese has renamed this position as “Evangelism Facilitator.” An Evangelism Facilitator is one who will enable all of us to express, in our own ways, the Good News of Jesus Christ. Evangelism Facilitators foster evangelistic ministry within a congregation. Not only do they model personal evangelism in the community, but they also have a leadership role in helping all members of the congregation to exercise their individual evangelical gifts. The use of public narrative as a way to help others link their own calling to that of their faith community can be an important part of this ministry. Functioning under the supervision of the Rector, Vicar or Priest-in-Charge, they help to connect the congregation with the secular community. While there is no limit to the number of persons in a congregation who may be licensed, the Commission on Ministry encourages all congregations to have at least one person in this role.

Discernment

Candidates considering the ministry of Evangelism Facilitator 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:

- Do I have the capacity for discerning gifts in others, and enabling them to tell their spiritual stories?
- Do I feel called to connect the Church with the secular world?
- Do I feel called to help others witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ?
- Do I feel called to help others exercise their particular evangelical gifts?
- Do I have the gift of active listening?
- What does the Baptismal Covenant mean to me?
- Have I asked God whether God might be calling me to this ministry?
- Would I be able to relay the tradition of our church, appreciating our history and diversity?
- What would I tell someone if asked, “What is important to know about God?”
- 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?

- Do I have an adequate level of theological sophistication and appreciation of our Anglican theological roots in order to recognize our strengths as a church and help other members articulate a message that connects with those we invite to join us?
- Do I have and exhibit an appreciation of various expressions of religious devotion and faith?
- Am I adept at gathering and leading groups and am I familiar with group process?
- Am I sensitive to the many overlapping ministries within a congregation, working in concert and not in competition?
- Am I Christ centered and can I recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit in my own ministry?
- Like any leaders in the church, have I established credibility in my congregation, as this ministry can thrive only when there is trust?

Steps to Establishing a Licensed Evangelism Facilitator in your Congregation

1. **Identify a potential candidate.** Are they enthusiastic about your congregation? Do they have good social skills? Are they hospitable? Are they comfortable telling their own story of how they came to worship in your church?
2. **Test whether they have a “call” to this ministry.** Have the Congregational Commission on Ministry (CCOM) assist in helping the candidate decide if God is calling them to this work and whether they would be a good team member working in tandem with the clergy and other leaders in the congregation. Consider specifically how they might fill this role, e.g. as a public narrative facilitator, as a marketing and publicity specialist, as a leader in the parish who can excite others about telling their own faith story and the story of your church.
3. **Submit a letter request for a license to the Bishop.** The letter should identify the candidate and describe their gifts and how the Priest-in-Charge and the CCOM came to decide they were a good fit for this work. Identify their particular skills and the training they may need.
4. **Set up a support system.** Provide for any training that might help and establish regular communication channels between them, the clergy, and the Vestry.

REMEMBER: All the baptized are evangelists. This person will not fill this role in your stead: they will enable each of us to do it more effectively.

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 what it means to be an Evangelism Facilitator, orally and in writing to the Congregational Commission on Ministry.
2. Demonstrate appropriate social skills for meeting and dealing with people.

3. Exhibit a particular call for enabling evangelistic ministry within a congregation.
4. Model personal evangelism in the community.
5. Seek to equip and encourage all members of the congregation, including the ordained leaders, to exercise their particular evangelic gifts.
6. Search for and share strategies, programs and other tools available for connecting churches with the secular communities in which they are embedded.
7. Have an understanding of the concept of using public narrative as a way to help others link their own calling to that of their faith community.
8. Communicate regularly with their counterparts throughout the Diocese and beyond.
9. Participate in workshops and other events to assist their own congregations and their sister congregations throughout the Diocese.
10. Function under the supervision of the Rector, Vicar or Priest-in-Charge.
11. 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, Rt. Rev. Bishop Michael. *Go Speak! Sharing Our Faith Wrap-Ups*. Vimeo. The Episcopal Diocese of NC. Accessed October 20, 2015. <https://vimeo.com/95984654>
- Education for Ministry Program (EfM). The Beecken Center of The School of Theology, The University of the South. Accessed October 20, 2015. <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>
- Episcopal Diocese of California. 2010. *Public Narrative Learner's Guide for the Diocese of California*. Accessed October 20, 2015. www.diocal.org/sites/default/files/media/PDF%20Docs/diocal_publicnarrative_learners_guide.pdf
- Episcopal Diocese of Spokane. 2010. *Public Narrative & Strategy for Mission Leadership Workshop Guide*. Originally Adapted From The Works Of Marshall Ganz Of Harvard University. Accessed October 20, 2015. http://s3.amazonaws.com/dfc_attachments/public/documents/455/Diocese_of_Spokane_Leadership_Team_Training_-_Participant_Guide_2-10.pdf
- McWade, Gail Anne. 2011. *Southeast Deanery Listens for the Voice Within*. The Episcopal Diocese of Northern California. Accessed October 20, 2015. www.norcalepiscopal.org/southeast-deanery-listens-for-the-voice-within
- Rothauge, Arlin J. *Making Small Groups Effective – Notes on Fellowships, Home Cell Groups and House Groups in the Episcopal Tradition, Congregational Vitality Series #4*. Accessed October 20, 2015. [www.episcopalchurch.org/files/CDR_series4\(1\).pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/files/CDR_series4(1).pdf)
- Schori, Bishop Katharine Jefferts. 2007. *Evangelistic Listening*. Accessed October 20, 2015. www.episcopalchurch.org/posts/jeffertsschori/evangelistic-listening

Books for Individual or Group Study

- Daniel, Lillian. 2006. *Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony*. The Alban Institute.
- Edwards, Lloyd. 1988. *Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts*. Cowley Publications.
- Farnham, Suzanne G. et. al. 1991. *Listening Hearts, Discerning Call in Community*. Moorehouse Publishing.
- Geitz, Elizabeth. 2004. *Fireweed Evangelism: Christian Hospitality in a Multi-Faith World*. New York: Church Publishing Inc.

- Hunter, George G. III. 2010. 10th Anniversary rev. and expanded ed. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism, Tenth Anniversary Edition: How Christianity Can Reach The West... Again*. Abingdon Press.
- Law, Eric. 1993. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb*. Chalice Press.
- Long, Thomas G. 2004. *Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass.
- Palmer, Parker J. 1999. *The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass Publishing. Originally published by Harper & Row
- Reese, Martha Grace. 2008, 2nd ed. *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism*. Chalice Press.
- Spellens, Stephanie. 2006. *Radical Welcome: Embracing God, The Other, and the Spirit of Transformation*. New York: Church Publishing Inc.

Note: The Evangelism Facilitator 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.