

Worship Leader

Title III, Canon 4, Section 4

A Worship Leader is a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of a Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

A Worship Leader may publicly and regularly lead the Daily Offices of Morning Prayer, Order of Service for Noonday, Evening Prayer, and Compline. A Worship Leader may also lead other occasional services provided in *The Book of Common Prayer*.

Discernment

Candidates considering the ministry of Worship Leader 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:

- ☐ What is ministry and what are things that I do that are ministry?
- ☐ What does the Baptismal Covenant mean to me?
- ☐ Have I asked God whether God might be calling me to this ministry?
- ☐ Can I tell the story of why I feel called to this ministry?
- ☐ Am I comfortable speaking in front of a group?
- ☐ Am I willing to work as a member of a team and learn how to use appropriate resources to plan worship services?
- ☐ Am I interested in the general content of the Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, the Hymnal, and Church history?
- ☐ Do I have an interest and on-going curiosity about liturgical traditions of the Church, including styles and seasonal variations of worship?
- ☐ What gifts do I have that would that be an asset for this ministry? What particular gifts do I bring now, and what gifts do I hope to develop/grow?

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 Eucharist and what it means to be a Worship Leader, orally and in writing to the Congregational Commission on Ministry.
2. Demonstrate warmth and caring for the worshipping community and love and reverence for God.

3. Demonstrate the ability to effectively use the contents of *The Book of Common Prayer* and *The Book of Occasional Services*, especially those services that may be led by lay persons. These include:
 - Morning and Evening Prayer
 - Compline
 - The Great Litany
 - Reconciliation of a Penitent
 - Ministration to the Sick
 - Ministration at the Time of Death
 - Burial of the Dead
 - Advent Festival of Lessons and Music
 - Christmas Festival of Lessons and Music
4. Demonstrate a familiarity with the special forms that are provided for Worship Leaders, such as declarations of forgiveness (*BCP* 42, 80, 448, 452, etc.).
5. Demonstrate the ability to read and interpret rubrics.
6. Demonstrate the ability to determine ecclesiastical dates.
7. Demonstrate the ability to use the lectionaries of the Prayer Book to find assigned lessons.
8. Demonstrate the ability to find the assigned lessons in the Bible.
9. Demonstrate the ability to read liturgy and lessons orally.
10. Demonstrate the ability to plan a service of worship, including the use of music and the hymnal.
11. Demonstrate the ability to record services led into the Register of Services found in the sacristy.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of vestments that may be used by lay persons in these services, and their care.
13. Demonstrate knowledge and respect for local liturgical customs.
14. 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

- ChurchNext Online Courses. *Exploring The Book of Common Prayer Series*. www.churchnext.tv/p/churchnext. Accessed October 20, 2015. Courses in this series:
 - *An American Prayer Book, A Global Prayer Book*
 - *The Spirituality of The Book of Common Prayer*
 - *English Origins of The Book of Common Prayer*
 - *Scripture and The Prayer Book*
- Church Publishing Incorporated website. Accessed October 20, 2015. www.churchpublishing.org. Source for purchasing materials. They also have free PDF files of some of the *Enriching Our Worship* volumes.
- Puckett, Kelly W. 2015. *The Lectionary Page*. www.lectionarypage.net Accessed October 20, 2015. Lectionary page and liturgical calendar.

Books for Individual or Group Study

- Atkinson, Clifford. 1988. *Lay Minister's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*. Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Black, Vicki. 2005. *Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer*. Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Church Publishing. 2004. *The Book of Occasional Services-2003*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- Church Publishing. 2010. *Holy Women, Holy Men, Celebrating the Saints*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- Church Publishing. 2006. *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- 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.

- Ferlo, Roger. 1997. *The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 2, Opening the Bible*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Griffiss, James E. 1997. *The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 1, The Anglican Vision*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Johnston, Michael. 1998. *The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 3, Engaging the Word*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Lee, Jeffrey D. 1999. *The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 7, Opening the Prayer Book*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Maynard, Beth, 1999. *Meditations for Lay Eucharistic Ministers*, Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. 1998. *Enriching Our Worship 1, Morning and Evening Prayer, The Great Litany, The Holy Eucharist*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. 2000. *Enriching Our Worship 2, Ministry with the Sick or Dying, Burial of a Child*. New York: Church Publishing.
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. 2006. *Burial Rites for Adults together with a Rite for the Burial of a Child, Enriching Our Worship 3*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music. 2009. *Enriching Our Worship 5, Liturgies and Prayers Related to Childbearing, Childbirth, and Loss*. New York: Church Publishing, Inc.
- Stuhlman, Byron, 1987. *Prayer Book Rubrics Expanded*, Church Publishing, NY
- Webber, Christopher L. 2006. *User's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer*, Morehouse Publishing Co.
- Weil, Louis. 2002. *The New Church's Teaching Series, Volume 12, A Theology of Worship*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc.
- Westerhoff, John H. 2004. *Living Faithfully as Prayer Book People*. Morehouse Publishing Co.

Note: The Worship Leader 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.