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From: Jacqi Seppi <jacqi@norcalepiscopal.org>

Date: Mon, May 2, 2022 at 9:33 AM

Subject: Requirement for Lay Licensing

To:

[On Behalf of Bishop Megan](#)

Re: Requirement for Lay Licensing

Dear Clergy,

Greetings!

As we come upon June 30, many of you will be renewing your lay licenses. As we know, lay licenses expire after 3 years.

As a Diocese and part of the Wider Church, we have committed to taking steps towards racial reconciliation. These small steps allow us to become more of who we are: recipients of the grace of God. We who have received grace also share it forward with love and patience for others.

To ensure that all our lay leaders receive the proper training, starting July 1, 2022, we will require that proof of racial reconciliation training is presented with each renewal of a lay license. (An example: if you are renewing the Lay Eucharistic Minister license of 10 people, we will need proof of racial reconciliation training for each person – 10 certificates)

Racial Reconciliation training is taken every 5 years, and there are two ways to complete this training.

Many of our churches have participated in a Sacred Ground Circle. This course counts towards the training. If a certificate was not received, a letter from the Circle facilitator will suffice.

We recommend Sacred Ground, especially for our Lay Preachers, Worship Leaders, Formation Leaders, and Evangelists. Of course, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors are welcome to take Sacred Ground, which will complete the requirement.

The Commission for Intercultural Ministries offers a 1-day program that can be used for Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Eucharistic Visitors entitled, "I will with God's help." This program issues a certificate and is offered in each deanery. This course will also meet the requirement for all lay leaders.

Taking a racial reconciliation course fulfills Diocesan requirements and Episcopal Church Canonical requirements regarding licensing. Additionally, it also fulfills our baptismal vow to respect the dignity of every person.

We thank you and your ministers for their dedication to training, continuing education, and especially their willingness to serve in the ministry of the church.

In Christ,

Bishop Megan