

Section 2: Licensed Lay Ministries

Doc. 2C: Preacher

A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach. Persons so authorized shall only preach in congregations under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Applicants for the ministry of Preacher are required to participate in a Discernment Conference before applying to the Bishop and appearing before COMB.

The Preacher is a confirmed communicant in good standing functioning with permission of the Bishop and under the direct supervision of the congregation's Priest-in-Charge. Once licensed, the Preacher functions solely at the discretion of the Priest-in-Charge.

The license is only valid for the congregation in which the Preacher is a member at the time of licensing. The Preacher may be given special permission by the Bishop to preach in other circumstances or in other congregations provided he or she has received an invitation to preach by that Priest-in-Charge. The Preacher, under the direction of the Priest-in-Charge, will pursue continuing education as approved by the Bishop.

Training

Applicants for the ministry of Preacher will be trained under a program devised by EICS appropriate to this ministry, and, if necessary, modified according to the applicant's previous education and experience. The program may be primarily self-study or distance study and may include reading material, seminars, webinars or actual courses. The areas of study are:

- The Book of Common Prayer and its authorized supplements
- Holy Scriptures, interpretation, contents and background
- The Hymnal (and other authorized music resources).
- The conduct of public worship
- An overview of Church history including current events in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion
- Christian ethics and moral theology
- Church doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of Faith, commonly called the Catechism
- Pastoral dynamics of preaching

- Homiletics, including use of voice
- Safeguarding God's Children
- Anti-Racism Training

Certification

The term of a Preacher License is three years and may be renewed at the discretion of the Bishop upon evidence of diocesan approved continuing education and the needs of the congregation. The license can be revoked by the Bishop at any time.

Documentation

The Priest-in-Charge will maintain a confidential personnel file for the Preacher that shall contain the following:

- Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above in "Training"
- A copy of the application sent to the Bishop by the Priest-in-Charge
- A copy of the certificate from the Bishop licensing the person to be a Preacher

Documentation of licensing of Preachers will be maintained and displayed in the parish.