

Section 2: Licensed Lay Ministries

Doc. 2D: Catechist

A Catechist is a lay person authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, and shall function 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 Catechist are required to participate in a Discernment Conference before applying to the Bishop and appearing before COMB.

The Catechist 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 Catechist functions solely at the discretion of the Priest-in-Charge and is licensed to serve only in that congregation. The Catechist may be given special permission by the Bishop to serve another parish with the permission of that congregation's Priest-in-Charge, or within a diocesan region if the priests-in-charge in that region and the Bishop approve. The Catechist, under the direction of the Bishop and the Priest-in-Charge, will pursue continuing education as guided by the diocese and the Priest-in-Charge.

Training

Applicants for the ministry of Catechist 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) and also, the Hymnal (and other authorized music resources)
- Church doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of Faith, commonly called the Catechism
- The Bible; its translations, organization, and its use for personal study
- Traditions and styles of prayer
- An overview of Church history including current events in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion
- Familiarity with resources for personal study, including authorities for faith journeys in the Anglican tradition

- Safeguarding God's Children
- Anti-Racism Training

Certification

The Catechist's license may be renewed every three years with annual reviews held by the Priest-in-Charge. The license can be revoked by the Bishop at any time upon request of the Priest-in-Charge.

Documentation

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

- Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed under "Training".
- Certification of the Catechist's completion of required diocesan 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 Catechist

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