



The Episcopal Diocese of Georgia

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STANDARDS FOR LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

I. LICENSING

Under the provisions of Title III, Canon 4 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church (2018), the bishop may license communicants in good standing* to serve as a Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, Evangelist, or Catechist upon the layperson's having completed certain requirements and upon the recommendation of the parish or mission priest under whom they will serve. Layperson must be at least 16 years old to apply.

The member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith may request the Bishop to license persons within that congregation or other community of faith to exercise such ministries. Training for Worship Leaders, Eucharistic Ministers, and Eucharistic Visitors is at the discretion of the Member of the Clergy exercising oversight. A program of study for the other licensed lay ministries shall be made in consultation with the bishop.

Licenses will be issued for a three-year period. Licensed Lay Ministers will also be expected to continue regular individual study and to conform to all provisions of Title III, Canon 4.

* Those who in the previous year have been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause prevented, and have been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

II. RULE OF LIFE

Once licensed, a Lay Minister of the diocese will be expected to make a commitment to a Rule of Life, developed in consultation with his/her pastor, which should include the following;

1. Daily prayer, to include regular reading of Holy Scripture.
2. Weekly reception of Holy Communion.
3. Responsible stewardship - acceptance of the tithe as the Biblical standard of financial responsibility and working toward this standard.

This rule shall be reviewed annually with the priest.

