

# THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN MAINE

## Guidelines for Licensed Lay Liturgical Ministry

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### **WORSHIP LEADERS (WL)**

Worship Leaders are confirmed adult communicants who regularly lead public worship under the direction of the clergy in charge of the congregation. Worship Leaders are nominated by clergy in charge of the congregation and serve a term of three years, from Advent to Advent, unless otherwise designated. Persons licensed shall conform to the requirements and limitations set forth by *The Book of Common Prayer*, and training is required for the performance of this ministry. Worship Leader licenses may be renewed if requested by the clergy in charge of the congregation. A Worship Leader may vest in alb or in cassock and surplice when conducting worship. You may wish to refer to [A Lay Minister's Guide to the Book of Common Prayer](#) by Clifford Atkinson as a resource for this ministry.

### **EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS (EM)**

Eucharistic Ministers are confirmed adult communicants authorized to administer the Consecrated Elements (both bread and wine) at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. Eucharistic Ministers are nominated by clergy in charge of the congregation and serve a term of three years, from Advent to Advent, unless otherwise designated. Eucharistic Ministers normally vest when assisting at the Eucharist, although in some congregations the Eucharistic Minister dresses in street clothes and comes up to the altar at the time of the distribution.

### **EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS (EV)**

Eucharistic Visitors are confirmed adult communicants authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. This ministry is not to take the place of the exercise of ministry by the priest and/or deacon, including pastoral visitations to members of the congregation who are regularly unable to attend the celebration of the Holy Eucharist. Eucharistic Visitors are normally under the direction of a priest or a deacon serving in the congregation.

EVs are normally sent forth with prayer from the altar at the conclusion of the Eucharist.

Guidelines for this extraordinary ministry are established by the Bishop and training is to be conducted by the Priest-in-Charge or Deacon. Additional information about Eucharistic Visitor training will be available soon. Please feel free to be in touch with the Rev. Canon Michael Ambler if you have questions before then. Please use [A Manual for Lay Eucharistic Ministers](#) by Beth Wickenberg Ely as a standard for selection and use of Lay Eucharistic

Ministers in the Diocese of Maine. Diocesan training and a recent Safe Church certificate are required for this ministry.

## **PREACHERS**

Preachers are confirmed adult communicants in good standing authorized by the bishop to preach. In addition to the application for license, it is necessary to request (in writing) permission from the bishop to preach. It is expected that those wishing to receive a preaching license have had experience and/or training in preaching and have the support of their rector and vestry/bishop's committee. Licenses to preach must be renewed every year.

## **A WORD ABOUT LECTORS .....**

Lectors are selected by clergy in charge of congregations to read lessons, lead psalms, and in the absence of a deacon, to lead The Prayers of the People. Lectors are NOT licensed by the Bishop, but should be given instruction in how to introduce and conclude lessons and psalms, and in how to read the lessons. Lectors may read the Old Testament and Epistle, all the lessons at Morning or Evening Prayer and other offices as outlined in the rubrics (see *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 264-295). Lectors normally come up from the congregation to read. When Lectors perform other functions as well – choir member, acolyte, lay reader, chalice bearer – they should vest appropriately.