

The Episcopal Church
The Diocese of Georgia

RITE OF COMMISSIONING LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Persons authorized to distribute Holy Communion to the sick or infirm should be commissioned by the priest in charge of a congregation at a principal celebration.

Initially, the priest should address the reasons for this ministry in the context of a sermon and those who are about to be commissioned should be prayed for during the Prayers of the People. At an appropriate time (e.g. before the Peace) in the celebration, those so chosen should come forward to the sanctuary and stand before the celebrant.

THE SUGGESTED FORM:

The celebrant presents the candidates(s)

Dear Friends in Christ, our brothers and sisters, N. and N., are to be entrusted with the administration of the Holy Communion in the name of God and of this congregation to those who are unable to be present at principal celebrations of the Eucharist, and to assist in the distribution of the elements at any celebration of the Holy Eucharist when there is an insufficient number of priests and deacons present. N. and N., in this ministry, you must be examples of Christian living in faith and conduct; you must strive to grow in holiness through this sacrament of unity and love. Remember that, though we are many, we are one body because we share the one bread and one cup.

Therefore, as ministers of Holy Communion be especially observant of the Lord's command to love your neighbor. For when he gave his body as food to his disciples, he said to them: "This is my commandment, that you should love one another as I have loved you.

The celebrant then asks them these questions:

Are you resolved to undertake the office of Lay Eucharistic Minister in order to build up Christ's Body, the Church?

Candidate I AM.

Celebrant Are you resolved to administer the Holy Communion with the utmost care and reverence?

Candidate I AM.

Celebrant I hereby convey to you from the Bishop of Georgia your license for this ministry.

The celebrant asks the congregation to stand, and the candidate(s) to kneel.

Dear Friends, let us pray with confidence, asking God's blessing on these persons chosen to be Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

After a pause, the officiant continues

Almighty and most merciful God, creator and redeemer of your family, bless + our sisters and brothers, N. and N. May they faithfully give the wonderful Holy Sacrament to your people. Strengthened by this sacrament, may they come at last to the heavenly banquet and stand with angels and archangels in adoration; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.