

The Episcopal Church
The Diocese of Georgia

STANDARDS FOR LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

I. LICENSING

Under the provisions of Title III, Canon 4 of the Canons of the Episcopal Church (2003), the bishop may license communicants in good standing* to serve as a Eucharistic Minister, a Eucharistic Visitor, a Catechist or a Preacher 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.

No licenses shall be issued to lay persons not previously licensed until such persons pass a written examination prepared by the Commission on Ministry. Examinations will be administered and corrected by the parish or mission priest under whom the applicants intend to serve. Licenses will be issued for a three-year period.

Within the first twelve months, first-time licensees are required to attend the diocesan-sponsored training held at Honey Creek in early March. Thereafter, they must attend at least one other continuing education/spiritual formation conference outside the parish within the three-year licensing period.

Those renewing a license are required to participate in at least two continuing education/spiritual formation conferences outside the parish within the three-year licensing period. These may be the diocesan March LLM conference or the fall Christian Formation conference, or some other approved by their parish or mission priest.

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.