



The Episcopal Church in Wyoming

Process for the Licensing of Lay Preachers

As they pertain to the training of Licensed Lay Preachers, the 2012 Canons of the Episcopal Church state:

Title III, CANON 4: Of Licensed Ministries

"Sec. 1 (a) A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry."

"Sec. 5. A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach. Persons so authorized shall only preach in congregations under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith."

In the Episcopal Church in Wyoming, prior to licensing, the Lay Preacher shall be trained, and found competent in the following subjects:

- a) The Holy Scriptures, contents and background;
- b) The Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal;
- c) The conduct of public worship;
- d) Use of voice;
- e) Church History;
- f) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology;
- g) The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the creeds and An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism;
- h) Appropriate Canons;
- i) Pastoral Care;
- j) Homiletics.

Persons so licensed shall only preach in congregations upon the initiative and under the supervision of a rector, ministry developer, or other person with oversight designated by the Bishop.

Steps in the Process

1. Congregations may choose to search out and call forth persons for this preaching ministry. The rector, ministry developer, or other person with oversight, together with a local discernment committee shall evaluate the person's readiness to preach and to be licensed. It is recommended that congregations be educated in aspects of good preaching and evaluating sermons. A useful resource for positive evaluation and critique can be found in "Your Way With God's Word" by David Schlafer.
2. The student will study under the direction of a mentor to work toward becoming proficient

in the competencies outlined in this document. The Mentor will be the rector, ministry developer, or other person with oversight who would be designated by the Bishop.

Students shall participate in an approved program of study---Education For Ministry (EFM), Wyoming Iona School for Preachers, or the Church's New Teaching Series (done in community).

In order to gain knowledge in the areas listed below it is recommended that the student use the included Study Guide and work together with their mentor and other preachers to answer the questions listed in The Study Guide.

The person may preach, under supervision, while still in the process of study.

3. When the congregation, mentor, and student feel the student has reached a level of competency in the areas listed above to be licensed, the person shall be recommended to the Bishop for licensing by completing and submitting the form "Certification of Vestry or Bishop's Committee and Mentor to the Licensing of a Preacher".
4. After being licensed the person shall participate in on going continuing education by private study, online classes, workshops, **especially preaching workshops sponsored by the diocese**. The licensed lay preacher is responsible for reporting to the vestry and mentor the nature and progress of his/her continuing education and shall receive direction in this regard from them.
5. Licenses will be issued for a period of three years. Renewal will be done according to the form "Renewal of Preaching License" on which the Lay Preacher completes the first two questions; the vestry/bishop's committee discusses the questions regarding the Preacher and reaffirms their support by a two-thirds vote and signing the bottom of the form; and the Mentor signing the bottom of the form.

Competencies for Licensed Lay Preachers

Common to all ministries

Understands and accepts the authority of scripture within the Episcopal Church tradition.

Conforms to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church.

Models good communication skills.

Demonstrates respect for boundaries and roles within the community.

Depersonalizes conflict; receives feedback as an opportunity for learning and growth.

Homiletics

Prepares and delivers lectionary-based (Sunday services) and pastoral homilies

- a. Understands and applies a means for interpreting text.
 - i. Understands and applies a means for interpreting situations.
 - ii. Constructs homilies based on interpretive insights so that they can be appropriated by people in their context.
 - iii. Seeks and uses regular feedback to improve homilies.
 - iv. Demonstrates appropriate public speaking skills (use of voice) to accomplish the effective delivery of sermons

Biblical Studies

Develops and maintains a knowledge of and relationship with Holy Scripture

- b. Commits to regular, ongoing study of the Holy Scriptures in community.
 - i. Demonstrates the ability to utilize standard biblical study tools, such as bible dictionaries, concordances, commentaries.
 - ii. Maintains a personal discipline of biblical studies by reading at least one appropriate book on the subject each year.

Anglican and Congregational Identity

Seeks to understand and express an Anglican heritage and identity, both individually and within the congregation

- c. Demonstrates knowledge of and ability to use the Book of Common Prayer
 - i. Understands and incorporates the analogy of a "three-legged stool" (scripture, tradition, reason) into the crafting of sermons.
 - ii. Reflects an understanding of and sensitivity to the congregation through the use of appropriate means of expression, illustrations and word choices in sermons.
 - iii. Demonstrates knowledge of and is conversant with the broad sweep of the history of Christian thought and practice, including ethics and moral theology.

Authority/Accountability

- d. Accepts a discipline of accountability to and through appropriate authorities
 - i. Understands and applies rubrics, diocesan, and local policies regarding liturgy.
 - ii. Understands and applies canons appropriately.
 - iii. Agrees to periodic review of sermons through use of local reflection groups or other appropriate means.
 - iv. Participates in meetings of the preachers of the congregation.
 - v. Reports to the COM if requested
 - vi. Acknowledges and agrees to the oversight of her/his preaching ministry by his/her congregation, rector, ministry developer, or other designated representative of the bishop.

Study Guide for Licensed Lay Preachers (3/16)

A. The Holy Scriptures, contents and background

Answer the following seven questions:

1. What is the significance of Covenant in the Old Testament? Cite relevant passages from the Old Testament. In what way is Covenant followed through in the New Testament. Or answer the question in this way: Explain, as to a junior high class, the meaning of covenant in the Hebrew Scriptures. Help them see how the idea is picked up in the Christian Scriptures.
2. Compare and contrast any two Old Testament prophets with each other and with John the Baptist and Paul in the New Testament.
3. In what way are the Psalms used as prayer in the Old Testament, the New Testament and in the church today?
4. What historical circumstances surrounded the writing of the works now found in the Apocrypha? What does "Apocrypha" mean? How did these writings come to be distinct from the rest of the Old Testament? In what sense are they authoritative scripture in the Church?
5. Every Bishop, Priest, and Deacon to be ordained in the Episcopal Church must sign the

following declaration:

"I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to Salvation."

What is your understanding of that statement? Outline a sermon you might offer on this text.

6. In what way is the Old Testament normative for Christians?
7. How does your knowledge of the historical-critical method inform your preaching on Biblical texts? Your own devotional reading of the Bible?

B. The Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal

C. The conduct of public worship

D. Use of voice

The candidates will become licensed as Lay Readers and regularly participate in the conduct of worship during the period of training. Evaluation of the candidate's ability to plan and conduct worship and use of the voice by the mentor, and the discernment committee will satisfy requirements B, C, and D of the Canons.

E. Church History

Answer the following seven questions:

1. Why do you think the study of history is important for someone preparing to be licensed to preach in the Episcopal Church?
2. How do you relate your personal history to the history of the Christian community? Discuss how themes, events, etc. in your personal story are reflections or expressions of themes in the history of the Christian community. Illustrate.
3. What were the dynamics instigating the Reformation? Compare and contrast the Reformation in England and the Reformation on the European continent.
4. What is the Great Awakening in American church history? How is its influence felt today?
5. Describe where and how Gnosticism is found in the early centuries of the Church? What forms of Gnosticism exist in the church today?
6. What were the dynamics instigating the split between the Eastern (Orthodox) and Western church?
7. Given the events of the past 30 years in the church, which of these do you think historians 300 years from now will note as most significant and why?

F. Christian Ethics and Moral Theology

Answer the following 4 questions:

1. How do you see the Episcopal Church addressing current social issues? Use one issue to develop your answer.
2. What do you think are the major social, ethical and moral issues of today? Do they differ from earlier eras? Compare and contrast.

3. What would be your guidelines for developing a sermon on an ethical or moral issue?
4. As a leader in your congregation what are your responsibilities in maintaining appropriate personal boundaries and behavior?

G. The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and an Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism

Answer the following 7 questions:

1. Richard Hooker wrote that because of the Incarnation, we can say "all things that are, are good . . . Nature is nothing else but God's instrument." Who is Richard Hooker and in what ways does Hooker's sense of the goodness of all creation inform your own spirituality?
2. Read through the Nicene Creed, the Apostles' Creed, and the Creed of St. Athanasius and the Calcedonian Definition. What common themes stand out for you? In what ways do these statements of belief reflect your own faith in God? How do they differ?
3. How does the Catechism relate to the creeds? What is the purpose of the Catechism?
4. Why are Baptism and Eucharist considered the two great sacraments?
5. Which sacraments of the church have been the most meaningful for you? Why?
6. Why are Baptisms to take place on Sunday during the worship service?
7. What is the meaning of the various sacraments? Who can preside at each of them?

H. Appropriate Canons

Read and understand: Title III, CANON 4: Of Licensed Ministries Section 1. (a) and Section 5 2012 Canons of the Episcopal Church

I. Pastoral Care

The mentor, clergy in charge and discernment team shall evaluate the candidate's sensitivity and compassion in this area.

J. Homiletics

The mentor, clergy in charge and the discernment committee shall evaluate the candidate's skill in this area. **The candidate/preacher is encouraged to attend any diocesan preaching workshops.**



The Episcopal Church in Wyoming

Certification of Vestry/Bishop's Committee and Mentor to the Licensing of a Preacher

To the Right Reverend Paul-Gordon Chandler, Bishop of Wyoming:

We, being a two-thirds majority of all the member of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee of _____ Church in _____, Wyoming, certify that, after due inquiry, we are well assured and believe that _____ is qualified as a Preacher, according to Title III, CANON 4: Section 1 (a) and Section 5 of the 2009 Canons of the Episcopal Church.

Signatures of Vestry Members:

The certificate must be attested by the Clerk of the Vestry or the Recording Secretary of the meeting at which the vote was taken in the following words:

I hereby certify that _____ is a member of _____ Church in and an adult communicant in good standing; that the foregoing certificate was signed at a meeting of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee duly convened at _____ on the ___ day of _____, and that the names attached are those of all (or a two-thirds majority of all) the members of the Vestry/Bishop's Committee.

Clerk of the Vestry

Mentor rector, ministry developer,
or other person with oversight)

Declaration of Belief and Conformity

I solemnly declare that I do believe the Holy Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the Word of God, and to contain all things necessary to salvation; and I do solemnly engage to conform to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church.

Preacher to be Licensed

Date



The Episcopal Church in Wyoming

Episcopal Church in Wyoming Application for Renewal of Preaching License

Name: _____ Date: _____
Congregation & Town: _____

What continuing education have you participated in since your license was issued or renewed that furthers your preaching ministry? (Use other side if necessary.)

How do you evaluate your preaching ministry? (Use other side if necessary.)

Things for the vestry/bishops committee to discuss before affirming the renewal of a preaching license:

Does the preacher

- Worship regularly because s/he is committed to God and the church?
- Listen attentively to others and seem truly interested in other viewpoints and opinions?
- Show willingness to accept help as well as offer help to others?
- Have a discipline of prayer and study?
- Interpret current events in the light of theological themes?
- Connect well with the congregation?
- Have good speaking skills?
- Understand the difference between preaching and promoting?

We, (at least two-thirds of) the Vestry/Bishop's Committee of _____ Church in _____, reaffirm our support of _____ as a licensed preacher in this congregation.

Signatures of Vestry Members:

I concur with this decision.

Clerk of the Vestry

Mentor rector, ministry developer,
or other person with oversight)