

Guidelines for Selection, Training, Formation and Continuing Education of Licensed Ministries in the Diocese of East Tennessee

By virtue of our baptism, we are all Christian ministers. The Holy Spirit authorizes and empowers every baptized person to carry on various ministries for the good of and on behalf of the congregation. Emphasizing, empowering and mobilizing the ministry of all the baptized leads congregations to an elevated sense of ownership of their mission. Our diocese's Shared Ministry Formation Team – along with the Bishop, the diocesan Office of Ministry Development, the Commission on Ministry, and others – are all resources to congregations interested in exploring ministry development. Ministry of all of the baptized is foundational to the identity of the Church as the People of God. Title III, Canon 1:1 of the Church Canons states:

Each Diocese shall make provision for the affirmation and development of the ministry of all baptized persons, including:

- (a) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to minister in Christ's name, to identify their gifts with the help of the Church and to serve Christ's mission at all times and in all places.
- (b) Assistance in understanding that all baptized persons are called to sustain their ministries through commitment to life-long Christian formation.

While all ministries in God's world are understood as significant, the Church provides opportunities for certain *licensed ministries*. "A confirmed 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" (Title III, Canon 4, Sec.1 (a)).

Information about these licensed ministries is located in the attached *Licensed Ministries Notebook**. The *Licensed Ministries Notebook* describes each of the canonical licensed ministries including: personal qualities of those seeking a specific licensed ministry, formation considerations prior to licensing, training and formation opportunities, and recommended resources.

Training, formation and continuing education for **Eucharistic Visitor, Eucharistic Minister** and **Worship Leader** typically occur at the parish level. Occasional diocesan workshops for initial training and continuing education may be provided. Training, formation and continuing education for **Pastoral Leader, Preacher** and **Catechist** are

available via the shared ministry support team approach as described in the attached *Shared Ministry Notebook**.

Also, training, formation and continuing education for **Pastoral Leader, Preacher** and **Catechist** are available for those individuals in parishes not utilizing the shared ministry support team structure.

The Diocese of East Tennessee has also determined the need for an additional licensed ministry that is not referenced in the church's canons (above). Licensing opportunities for **Parish Administrator** are available as described in the *Licensed Ministry Notebook*.

All licensed ministries are intended for ministry opportunities within and via the congregation from which the individual is a confirmed communicant in good standing.

Below is an illustration of the duration for each canonical and/or diocesan licensed ministry:

Pastoral Leader.....	1 year
Worship Leader.....	3 years
Preacher.....	1 year
Eucharistic Minister.....	3 years
Eucharistic Visitor.....	1 year
Catechist.....	3 years
Parish Administrator.....	3 years

Requests for licensing and renewal of license should be made to the Bishop from the Member of the Clergy exercising oversight responsibility of the congregation. Specific questions about selection, training and continuing education may be directed to Rick Govan, Diocesan Ministry Development Facilitator (rgovan@etdiocese.net or 423-698-1222).

* Please note that occasionally both the *Licensed Ministries Notebook* and the *Shared Ministry Notebook* will be updated and revised. For a current copy, please check the Shared Ministry homepage at www.etdiocese.net

