



Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio Guidelines for the Training of Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Because the various congregations of the Diocese employ the ministry of Lay Eucharistic Visitors in different ways it makes sense for the training of Lay Eucharistic Visitors to take place in the congregation rather than at a Diocesan level.

It is expected that the priest or deacon who will be responsible for overseeing the ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitors will conduct the training with the assistance of an experienced Lay Eucharistic Visitor if appropriate.

It is also expected that the training of Lay Eucharistic Visitors will cover the following points:

- The Canon of the Episcopal Church that covers the ministry of Lay Eucharistic Visitors (see page 2 of this document)
- The ministries of Presence, Healing and Hope that are part of the ministry of the Lay Eucharistic Visitor
- An expectation of respect and care for the person being visited and the family and other caregivers of that person
- The use of the service of Communion Under Special Circumstances in the Book of Common Prayer and the ways in which that service may be adapted to particular circumstances.
- The practices of reporting and recording the visits used by the congregation.
- Any policies, practices or other information specific to the congregation

It is recommended that a trainee Lay Eucharistic Visitor accompany an experienced LEV on several visits.

After training is complete the Rector, Vicar or Priest-In-Charge writes a letter to Kay Sturm at the Bishop's Center (125 E. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215) requesting an LEV license or complete the report form on the Diocesan web site.

Sexual Misconduct and Child Abuse Prevention Training is required for Lay Eucharistic Visitors. No license will be issued until that training is complete. Trainings are scheduled every month, the location moves around the Diocese. Contact Geri McDaniel (800-582-1712) for information on training dates and locations or check the calendar page of the Diocesan web site (episcopal-dso.org)

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. 2. (a) The Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith may request the Ecclesiastical Authority with jurisdiction to license persons within that congregation or other community of faith to exercise such ministries. The license shall be issued for a period of time to be determined under Canon III.4.1(a) and may be renewed. The license may be revoked by the Ecclesiastical Authority upon request of or upon notice to the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

(b) In renewing the license, the Ecclesiastical Authority shall consider the performance of the ministry by the person licensed, continuing education in the licensed area, and the endorsement of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith in which the person is serving.

(c) A person licensed in any Diocese under the provisions of this Canon may serve in another congregation or other community of faith in the same or another Diocese only at the invitation of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight, and with the consent of the Ecclesiastical Authority in whose jurisdiction the service will occur.

Sec. 7. A Eucharistic Visitor is a lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.