



## **THE BISHOP OF THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SOUTH CAROLINA**

### **Guidelines for Licensed Ministries The Episcopal Church in South Carolina Title 3. Canon 4: Sec. 6. and Sec. 7.**

#### **Eucharistic Minister and Eucharistic Visitors Please specify which license you are requesting**

- 1) **A Eucharistic Minister is a layperson authorized** to administer the Consecrated Elements at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister should normally act under the direction of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. This license shall be effective for no more than three years.
- 2) **A Eucharistic Visitor is a layperson 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 the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. This license shall be effective for no more than one year.

A Eucharistic Minister is licensed to administer wine or bread in public worship. After three years or less, it is advisable to replace the Eucharistic Minister, requiring at least one year before requesting re-license for another term. This rotation helps to prevent the appearance of perpetually entitled ministers and will share this ministry more widely among the congregation.

Please use your own judgment as to how many Eucharistic Visitors you genuinely need for rotation of this ministry to take the Sacrament directly from church to the sick and infirm.

The total number of Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors authorized in a congregation is left to the judgment of the Rector, Vicar or Priest-in-Charge.

**Training is required for both Eucharistic Ministers and Eucharistic Visitors under the direction of a Member of the Clergy**, or other leader exercising oversight of the community of faith.

## **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 II.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.

### **Sec. 2(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.

The Diocesan Office is requiring that those persons applying for Eucharistic Visitor also complete the required Safeguarding Online training modules and also submit to a basic background check.

The Safeguarding Training can be accessed through our website:

[www.episcopalchurchsc.org](http://www.episcopalchurchsc.org) > Clergy Resources. It is expected that the applicants complete the following modules:

- Meet Sam
- It Happened to Me
- Keeping Your Church Safe
- Preventing Sexual Exploitation for Ministries
- Policies for TEC in SC.
- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment – For Workers
- Safeguarding God's People: Preventing Sexual Harassment – For Managers and Supervisors
- Recognizing Abuse and Exploitation in Elder Serving Programs

It is expected that the congregations will cover the \$8 fee for the background check. That form can be accessed on our website under Clergy Resources.