

The Diocese of Virginia

Catechist

A Catechist is a lay person who is authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows, under the direction of the Member of the Clergy who oversees the congregation or other community of faith.

Qualifications

- Confirmed communicant in good standing
- Faithful in worship and in stewardship
- Mature in faith
- Of good repute in the congregation
- Demonstrated gifts of teaching and discernment

Training

Completion of a course of training and study, under the supervision of the rector or other priest, to include a study of

- The teachings of the church as found in the Creeds
- The teachings of the church as found in An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism
- The Holy Scriptures
- Church History, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology
- The Canons of The Episcopal Church
- Methods of teaching
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training (short course)

General Information for clergy seeking Catechist licenses for lay people in their congregations:

1. Clergy requesting licenses should ensure that those licensed in the congregation represent the diversity of the Church, and include women, men, young people (16 years or older) and older persons, as well as persons of different racial and ethnic backgrounds.
2. Licensed lay ministers who are functioning liturgically may vest in either alb and cincture or surplice and cassock, according to parish custom.
3. Licenses are issued for three years.
4. Those who are in a formal formation programs for the priesthood or vocational diaconate in the Diocese of Virginia are deemed to be licensed under these guidelines.
5. Before a license may be granted, the applicant must complete training in the prevention of sexual misconduct. A “short course” is offered by the Committee on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct of the Diocese of Virginia.

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Application for License as a Catechist

TO THE BISHOP OF VIRGINIA:

I recommend and request that _____, an adult, confirmed, communicant in good standing, be licensed as a Catechist.

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I certify this person has completed training on the prevention of sexual misconduct and that records of this training will be maintained in the church office as long as this license is in effect.

Date of Completion of the Abbreviated Training on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

Signature of Member of Clergy

I certify this person is qualified and trained in accordance with the Canons and the Diocesan Guidelines. I will provide continuing supervision and training.

Signature of Member of Clergy

Church

I agree to conform to the Canons, the Diocesan Guidelines, and the direction of the Bishop and the Member of the Clergy in charge of the congregation where I am to serve, in the exercise of the ministry of a Catechist.

Signature of Person for whom this License is requested

Date of Application

Send to: Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, 110 West Franklin Street, Richmond, VA 23220