

The Diocese of Virginia

Pastoral Leader

A Pastoral Leader is a lay person authorized to exercise pastoral or administrative responsibility in a congregation under special circumstances, as defined by the Bishop. Typically in the Diocese of Virginia a Pastoral Leader serves in a congregation without a resident member of the clergy and may be licensed to lead the offices authorized by The Book of Common Prayer. Pastoral Leaders shall be appointed by the Bishop in consultation with the Senior Warden.

Qualifications

A Pastoral Leader must be a person of exceptional spiritual and personal maturity with demonstrated gifts of administration, discernment, pastoral care, teaching and proclamation. In addition, a Pastoral Leader must be

- A confirmed communicant in good standing
- Faithful in worship and in stewardship
- Mature in faith
- Of good repute in the congregation

Training

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

- The basics of parish administration
- The basics of Pastoral Care
- An overview of Church History
- The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and An Outline of the Faith, commonly called the Catechism
- Normally, a Pastoral leader will have served as a licensed Eucharistic Minister for at least one year before applying as a Pastoral leader
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training

Application

The application process for licensing as a Pastoral Leader will be specific to the particular circumstance. Contact the office of the Canon to the Ordinary to explore this process.