

The Diocese of Virginia

Eucharistic Visitor

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.

Qualifications

- 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 deacon or the rector or other priest, to include a study of

- The various theological understandings of the Holy Eucharist in the Anglican tradition
- Methods and practice of the administration of the elements. (use of the purificator, rotation of the chalice, use of intinction, consumption of remaining elements)
- Use of the Book of Common Prayer and approved rites for visitation
- Biblical studies sufficient to enable the Eucharistic Minister to comment wisely on the readings for the day
- The basics of pastoral visiting.
- Training in the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training (short course)

Information for clergy seeking Eucharist Visitor 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. Persons who read lessons and lead prayers need not vest.
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, with a special emphasis on awareness and prevention of elder abuse. 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 Eucharistic Visitor

TO THE BISHOP OF VIRGINIA:

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

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

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

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 Eucharistic Visitor.

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