

The Diocese of Virginia

Preacher

A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach the Gospel using his or her own words. Persons so authorized shall only preach in the congregation(s) or community of faith overseen by the sponsoring member of the clergy.

Qualifications

- Confirmed communicant in good standing
- Faithful in worship and in stewardship
- Mature in faith
- Of good repute in the congregation
- Reliability and punctuality
- Ability to think, teach, proclaim and speak clearly

Training

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

- The Holy Scriptures
- Forms of exegesis and an overview of forms of Biblical criticism
- The use of biblical commentaries and other aids for sermon preparation
- Church History, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology
- The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and the Catechism
- The Canons of The Episcopal Church
- The translations of the Bible authorized by the Church as the source for readings in public worship
- Use of the voice

The clergy person who requests the license will write a letter to the bishop outlining the course of training completed, the qualifications of the candidate, and the ways the candidate will exercise a ministry of preaching in the congregation.

General Information for clergy seeking 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.

The Diocese of Virginia

Application for License as a Preacher

TO THE BISHOP OF VIRGINIA:

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

A Preacher is a lay person authorized to preach the Gospel using his or her own words. Persons so authorized shall only preach in the congregation(s) or community of faith overseen by the sponsoring member of the 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. My letter outlining the course of training completed, the qualifications of the candidate, and the ways the candidate will exercise a ministry of preaching in the congregation is attached.

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 Preacher.

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