

Licensed Lay Ministry Program Study Bibliography for A Course of Preparation

Introduction

The books listed below have been specifically selected for A Course of Preparation for the Licensed Lay Ministries in order to give lay ministers the knowledge and tools they need to carry out their ministries. They range from basic introductions to Anglican Christianity to specific guides for the specific lay ministries described in the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church (III.4.3-8). Many of them are volumes in The New Church's Teaching Series. All were chosen for their readability and reasonable length of 200 or fewer pages.

Most of these books will not be available locally. They can be special ordered or found at online bookstores. Be sure to check resources for used books.

These books can be used for group discussion or individual study but group process is preferred. Group discussion can also provide an opportunity for shaping a course of study for all adults, recognizing that all are called to a baptismal ministry. The books are arranged by category and include a descriptive annotation. The requirements for each Licensed Lay Ministry can be found on their individual pages.

This list will be updated as new resources become available. Any suggestions of material should be sent to the Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary in the Office of the Bishop.

Introduction to Anglican Christianity

The Anglican Vision. James E. Griffiss. 1997. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 1). Cowley Publications. 148 pp.

The New Church's Teaching Series is written for adults who are not "cradle Anglicans" but who come from other religious traditions or none at all and who want to know what Anglicanism has to offer. In this introductory volume, James Griffiss reflects on how he has been shaped as an Anglican Christian and offers in an informal conversational style a concise but quite thorough summary of the history and present situation of Anglicanism and the Episcopal Church. The book concludes with questions for group study for each chapter, beginning with a paragraph of chapter summary. Also included is an annotated list of resources for further study.

Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction to Its History, Faith, and Worship. Christopher L. Webber. 1999. Morehouse Publishing. 133 pp.

This introduction to the Episcopal Church is written for adult parish study, newcomers, and other interested people. In concise but precise language, the author explores history, worship beliefs, spiritual life, organization of the church, mission, and the ways Episcopalians read and understand the Bible. This book serves as a companion volume to *Welcome to Sunday* (see below). It includes study questions at the end of each chapter.

What is Anglicanism? Urban T. Holmes. 1982. Morehouse Publishing. 95 pp.

Respected scholar and Dean at University of the South, Holmes completed this book just prior to his untimely death in 1981. Often reprinted, Holmes' book provides brief chapters which cover topics such as "Anglican Consciousness," "Authority in the Church," "Sacraments," and "Prophetic Witness". Each chapter focuses its discussion around the contribution of one significant person who embodied the topic in his or her life and ministry. There are no discussion questions.

Living Faithfully as Prayer Book People. John H. Westerhoff. 2004. Morehouse. 131 pp.

Excellent overview of various topics relevant to understanding the Anglican way of being Christian. Explains ritual, briefly reviews church history, and explains how the Bible is "a love story between God and humanity." Also describes Holy Week liturgies, bible study, living into baptism and a eucharistic life. Toward a personal formation program, Westerhoff suggests six broad categories for attention: worship, personal prayer, Scripture, service, stewardship, and ministry within daily life and work. Brief "afterward" of suggestions for further reading. There are no discussion questions.

Worship and The Book of Common Prayer Section A

Opening the Prayer Book. Jeffrey Lee. 1999. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 7). Cowley Publications. 195 pp.

The history and liturgies of The Book of Common Prayer described here spell out why Anglicans understand common prayer as "our way of being church." The author discusses the nature of common prayer, how prayer book worship shapes who we are as a church, and the development of liturgical patterns through history. He examines in particular the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter, baptism, Eucharist, and the daily office, showing how these services are rooted in

the historical prayers of the church and also reflect the living tradition of Christians today. Includes discussion questions and additional resources.

Welcome to the Book of Common Prayer. Vicki K. Black. 2005. Morehouse Publishing. 152 pp.

This book covers a range of topics including an introduction to the Book of Common Prayer, a description of its liturgies, daily prayer, the church year, and concludes with a chapter on tools for prayer and study. Includes questions for reflection and discussion.

Welcome to Sunday: An Introduction to Worship in the Episcopal Church. Christopher L. Webber. 2003. Morehouse Publishing. 110 pp.

As a companion to Webber's *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*, this book focuses on the Sunday worship experience. Beginning with a discussion of "what is worship," it moves to description of the where, when, who, and how of Sunday worship. Next comes the seasons of the church year and the book concludes with an examination of the two primary pieces of liturgy: the ministry of Word and of Sacrament. One review characterizes Webber's descriptions "precise without being overly technical, and useful as descriptions for the instructed Eucharist." It includes questions for further thought and discussion.

Section B

A Theology of Worship. Louis Weil. 2002. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 12.) Cowley Publications. 160 pp.

This book focuses on liturgy in the Anglican tradition, exploring the nature of liturgical experience and prayer and offering a theology of liturgical prayer rather than an historical study. Weil believes the members of the faith community are the primary celebrants in the liturgy; in this light he considers the role of the ordained, multi-culturalism, music, and the imperatives of including all members of the church—including children—in worship. Includes discussion questions.

Celebrating the Eucharist: A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers. Patrick Malloy. 2007. Church Publishing. 218 pp.

Malloy is Episcopal priest with a PhD in liturgics from the University of Notre Dame who served on the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church. Section One: Praying and Believing. Chapters on Liturgical Space, Vestments, Liturgical Year, Liturgical Ministries, Postures and Gestures. Section Two: The Sunday Eucharist. Includes a chapter on Baptism during Sunday Eucharist. Illustrated with drawings. Does not include discussion questions.

Scripture and Preaching

Opening the Bible. Roger Ferlo. 1997. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 2). Cowley Publications. 135 pp.

Traces the history of the people's access to the Holy Scriptures from oral presentation to scroll to illuminated manuscript and beyond. A lively account of the political and theological forces that come to bear on our understanding of the Bible. Chapters on Why Read the Bible, Preparing to Read, Scanning the Page, Comparing Translations, Interpreting the Explanatory Notes. One reviewer calls it a "masterful and engaging 'accompanied tour' through the Holy Scriptures." Includes suggestions for use of the book for group study, discussion questions and resources for further study.

Engaging the Word. Michael Johnston. 1998. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 3). Cowley Publications. 181 pp.

Builds on *Opening the Bible* by Ferlo. Proposes both a theological understanding of the Bible and an understanding that honors the questions and insights of our time. Invites readers to "nurture the transforming desire and delight that God and the readers ... are meant to have for each other" (40). Responsible, measured, fully grounded. Includes discussion questions with chapter summaries and resources for further study.

In Dialogue with Scripture: An Episcopal Guide to Studying the Bible. Linda L. Grenz, ed. 1997. Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society of the Protestant Episcopal Church. 230 pp.

Available to download at
http://www.episcopalchurch.org/50534_59364_ENG_HTM.htm

Articles on the Bible and the Episcopal Church, planning Bible Study, methods for use with small groups. Lengthy listing of "annotated resources" ranging from programs to computerized resources. Does not include discussion questions.

Church History and Theology

Living with History. Fredrica Harris Thompsett. 1999. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 5). Cowley Publications. 200 pp.

Explores how our knowledge of history shapes the church as we know it. Rather

than offering a chronological list of events, Thompsett focuses on the living traditions and memories that inform the church's identity and mission today. She begins by discussing the relationship between history, tradition, and change, and goes on to look at three of the ways that Anglicans have handled conflict and controversy throughout history. Includes discussion questions.

Early Christian Tradition. Rebecca Lyman. 1999. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 6). Cowley Publications. 178 pp.

Beginning with the Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultures in which the first followers of Jesus lived and worshiped, the author explores the development of the church's theology, worship, leadership, and moral life during the first six centuries. This story of intense religious fervor, theological controversy, and persecution shaped the church of Christendom in the Middle Ages and established the apostolic tradition. Includes discussion questions.

A Brief History of the Episcopal Church. David L. Holmes. 1993. Trinity Press International. 239 pp.

This book provides a readable and accurate account of the beginnings of the Anglican Church in America at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, to the establishment of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America after the War of Independence, to the present day. All who are interested in American church history and in the influence of the Episcopal Church on American history will find David Holmes's account fascinating and helpful. Does not include discussion questions.

How to Think Theologically. Howard W. Stone and James O. Duke. 2006, 2d ed. Fortress Press. 142 pp.

"To be a Christian at all is to be a theologian." "Faith is at once a gift of God and a human response." Written as a primer for Christians who are learning to do theology, which is an activity done by every Christian, knowingly or not. Addressing the how and why of theological sources, moves, and methods, Stone and Duke guide readers into their own theological roots and then into major theological topics — gospel, sin and salvation, vocation, ethical discernment — through real-life case studies. Includes a glossary and books for further reading. Study guide available at www.augsburgfortress.org.

The Art of Theological Reflection. Patricia O'Connell Killen and John de Beer. 1995. Crossroad. 156 pp.

A book for Christians who want to make a vital connection between their faith and their lives. The authors describe theological reflection as "the artful discipline of putting our experience into conversation with the heritage of the Christian

tradition." Their practical book provides a way for all of us to experience greater meaning in life and a more tangible sense of God's creative presence. Does not include discussion questions.

Understanding Faith: An Exploration of Christian Theology. C. W. McPherson. 1998. Morehouse Publishing. 164 pp.

A walk through the Christian Creed with careful analysis of the way Episcopalians think about the major articles of our faith. Theology at its best is an attempt to express the emotional, intellectual, psychological and physical impact of God on humans. Includes a bibliographic essay, but no discussion questions.

Mysteries of Faith. Mark McIntosh. 2000. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 8). Cowley Publications. 185pp.

This volume on theology introduces the great mysteries of the Christian faith: the doctrines of creation, revelation, incarnation, salvation, and eschatology, which are all held together by the doctrine of the Trinity. To explain these beliefs for Christians today, particularly the Trinity, the author begins with what we know: the language of relationship and mutuality, of friendship and family ties. The central theme of the book is our relationship with Jesus and our relationship with our neighbor, for such mutuality lies at the heart of every doctrine. By drawing on our common experiences as members of a community of faith, he helps us to explore these mysteries for ourselves and to see how we might live them in our daily lives. Includes discussion questions.

Christian Life in the World

The Practice of Prayer. Margaret Guenther. 1998. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 4). Cowley Publications. 212 pp.

This down-to-earth book on the essentials of prayer answers many of the common questions of the spiritual life, such as: How do we learn to listen to God in our prayer? And, How do we develop a life of prayer in the midst of busy, active lives? The author includes practical descriptions of a number of ways Christians have prayed through the centuries and discusses basic matters of Christian practice, such as making a confession, intercession, going on retreat, simplifying our lives, using a journal to pray, finding a spiritual director, and praying through times of desolation when God does not seem to be listening. Includes discussion questions.

Christian Social Witness. Harold T. Lewis. 2001. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 10). Cowley Publications. 162 pp.

Beginning with biblical understandings of social justice in the Old and New

Testaments, Lewis goes on to discuss the Episcopal church in the nineteenth and early twentieth century. Drawing on the witness of the Episcopal church as part of the Anglican Communion, later chapters discuss the challenges of a new social order that face the church in today because of liberation theology, third-world debt and economic justice and questions of race, gender and human sexuality. Includes discussion questions.

Horizons of Mission. Titus Presler. 2001. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 11). Cowley Publications. 223 pp.

Presler uses scripture, the history of mission, case studies, and the catechism to offer a fresh vision in the multi-cultural environment of world Christianity and the Anglican Communion. He explores historical and contemporary approaches to mission, emphasizing the church's emphasis on partnership, and illustrates how dioceses and parishes can engage fruitfully in world mission. Includes discussion questions.

Ethics After Easter. Stephen Holmgren. 2000. (The New Church's Teaching Series, Vol. 9). 193 pp.

This introduction to Christian moral thinking equips us with a distinctively Anglican approach to ethics, with its emphasis on holiness, sanctification, and the need for spiritual disciplines. Holmgren identifies clear axioms for Anglican moral theology and the methods required for moral decision-making on the part of individuals and church bodies. Includes discussion questions.

Faithful Living, Faithful Dying: Anglican Reflections on End of Life Care. Cynthia B. Cohen, et. al. 2000. Morehouse Publishing. 161 pp.

A collection of essays by members of a task force created to study what faithful living and faithful dying mean today. Authors address the theological and ethical understandings of death including "God, Death, and Anglican Theology." The second part of the book examines a variety of topics from using medical powers of attorney to "enriching the church's response." An Appendix contributes examples of parish procedures and policies for such things as Memorial Gardens and Columbaria. Particularly useful is "A Form of Prayer at a Time when Life-Sustaining Treatment is Withdrawn". No bibliography or discussion questions.

Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts. Lloyd Edwards. 1988. Cowley Publications.

Edwards assumes that because God created the world and continues to act to redeem the world, God "has called together a people to help re-unite and reconcile the world." He states that all of us are invited to choose whether to be a part of that or not and if we choose "yes" we are given the gifts with which to

carry out the work. Through step-by-step exercises and challenging self-evaluations, he leads Christians to a discernment of their gifts for all kinds of ministry.

The Active Life: A Spirituality of Work, Creativity, and Caring. Parker J. Palmer. 1990. Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Palmer, a highly respected Quaker teacher, author and retreat leader, in this book examines the paradoxical tension between action and contemplation as we carry out our ministry in the world. Using a series of stories and poems he shows how we can embrace the paradox that comes with living out our faith in the world, concluding that it is through leading the active life that we become authentic members of God's people and in that is our resurrection.

Embracing the World: Praying for Justice and Peace. Jane E. Vennard. 2002 Jossey-Bass Publishers.

Vennard is a well-known Colorado author of a number of books on a variety of spiritual topics. Here she provides a guide to finding a deeper relationship with God through prayer for those who also want to believe their prayers can make a difference and empower them to contribute to building a better world. She describes prayer as both contemplation and action and offers a practical guide for creating a prayer and action cycle where prayer leads to service and service leads to reflection and a closeness to God.

Evangelism

Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism. 2nd edition. Martha Grace Reese. 2008. Chalice Press.

Unbinding the Gospel is based on a major, four-year study of superb evangelism in mainline Protestant congregations funded by the Lilly Endowment. The Christian Century writes, "...the 'don't ask, don't tell' evangelism program will not reverse the trend. Humor, whimsy and joy in the faith will serve us better. Reese's book is written to provoke, to tease and to charm us back into telling our story."

Tell It Like It Is: Reclaiming the Practice of Testimony. Lillian Daniel. 2006. The Alban Institute.

During the 2000 Lenten season, Church of the Redeemer in New Haven, Connecticut, slowly began exploring the practice of testimony—a practice that would eventually revitalize their worship and transform their congregational culture. In *Tell It Like It Is*, Lillian Daniel, pastor of the congregation, describes how the practice of testimony strengthened lay leadership, fostered more intimate community, and drew the congregation closer to God.

Testimony: Talking Ourselves into Being Christian. Thomas G. Long. 2004. Jossey-Bass.

This book explores how Christians talk when they are *not* in church. *Testimony* breaks the stained-glass image of religious language to show how ordinary talking in our everyday lives— talk across the backyard fence, talk with our kids, talk about politics and the events of the day—can be sacred speech. In a world of spin, slick marketing, mindless chatter, and easy deceptions, *Testimony* shows that the hunger for truthful, meaningful, and compassionate speech is ultimately grounded in truth about God.

The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West...Again. George G. Hunter III. 2000. Abingdon Press.

North America is today in the same situation as the environment in which the early Celtic preachers found their mission fields: unfamiliar with the Christian message, yet spiritually seeking and open to a vibrant new faith. If we are to spread the gospel in this culture of secular seekers, we would do well to learn from the Celts. Their ability to work with the beliefs of those they evangelized, to adapt worship and church life to the indigenous patterns they encountered, remains unparalleled in Christian history. If we are to succeed in “reaching the West . . . again,” then we must begin by learning from these powerful witnesses to the saving love of Jesus Christ.

Fireweed Evangelism: Christian Hospitality in a Multi-Faith World. Elizabeth Rankin Geitz. 2004. Church Publishing.

The author of *Entertaining Angels: Hospitality Programs for the Caring Church*, Geitz here explores evangelism as the missing ingredient in Christian hospitality, reminding us that in a multi-faith world where Christians wish to honor the validity of other religious paths, we may hesitate to talk about the uniqueness of Jesus Christ. Her book helps both individuals and communities to understand what holds them back from evangelism and discover the path that is right for them.

You may also consider *Discerning Your Spiritual Gifts* by Lloyd Edwards and *The Active Life* by Parker J. Palmer. Both may be found above in the Christian Life in the World section.