

Catechist

Description, Role and Authority

The Catechist is authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. He or she should demonstrate a passion for teaching and the ability to interact with children and adults in an age appropriate manner.

- The Catechist is a confirmed communicant in good standing who functions with the permission of the Bishop and under the direct supervision the congregation's Rector.
- Once licensed, the Catechist functions solely at the discretion of the Rector and is licensed to serve only in that congregation.
- The Catechist, under the direction of the Rector, will pursue continuing education.

Training

The applicant for Catechist will be trained and found competent to the Rector's satisfaction in the following areas of knowledge and understanding:

- The Book of Common Prayer, especially the Creeds and An Outline of Faith, commonly called the Catechism, and the Hymnal
- The Bible, translations, organization, and its use for personal study
- Traditions and styles of prayer
- An overview of Church history including current events in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion
- Familiarity with resources for personal study, including authorities for the faith journey in the Anglican tradition

Training in the above areas will be supervised by the Rector and will include reading and discussion of one book from the Study Bibliography in each of the following categories:

- Introduction to Anglican Christianity
- Worship and the Book of Common Prayer
- Scripture and Preaching
- Church History and Theology
- Christian Life in the World

The Catechist will also read and discuss *How to Think Theologically* by Stone and Duke which was written as a primer for Christians who are learning to do theology, an activity done by every Christian, knowingly or not. Because the ministry of the Catechist primarily offers the fruits of the Catechist's theological education, the process of training and education is intensive and will require work over a period as long as one year.

Continuing Education resources can be found on the main licensed lay ministry webpage.

The applicant for Catechist is also required to successfully complete the following diocesan training:

- Safeguarding God's Children
- Safeguarding God's People

Application for a License

- The Rector should send the Catechist Application (p.3 of this document) to the Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary in the Office of the Bishop.
- The Rector shall request that the Catechist's license be renewed every three years.
- The license can be revoked by the Bishop upon request of the Rector.

Documentation

The Rector will maintain a confidential personnel file for the Catechist which shall contain the following:

1. Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above in "Training"
2. Certification of the Catechist's completion of required diocesan training
3. A copy of the application sent to the Bishop by the Rector
4. A copy of the certificate from the Bishop licensing the person to be a Catechist

Catechist



To Bishop Robert O'Neill:

As the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of

_____, I am requesting a

Congregation Location
license for _____
Title Full Name

to serve in our congregation as a Catechist to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows.

He/She was confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church

at _____ on _____
Location Date

He/She attended the required training:

Safeguarding God's Children _____
Please enclose a copy of the certificate. Location Date

Safeguarding God's People _____
Please enclose a copy of the certificate. Location Date

If this is a renewal, please provide a brief description of the continuing education.

I hereby certify that this applicant is baptized, is a confirmed or received adult communicant in good standing, has been appropriately trained per diocesan policy, and is a fit and responsible person to be a Catechist in this congregation.

Date Signature

Print Name

Licensee Address

Email

Send this form to:
Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary
The Office of the Bishop
1300 Washington Street
Denver CO 80203-2008