

Worship Leader

Description, Role and Authority of the Worship Leader

The Worship Leader regularly leads public Morning or Evening Prayer in a congregation. These services do not normally include communion. The Worship Leader should demonstrate a deep relationship with God and a personal commitment to the ministry of the church with a spirituality centered in public worship.

- The Worship Leader is a confirmed communicant in good standing who functions with the permission of the Bishop and under the direct supervision of the congregation's Rector.
- Once licensed, the Worship Leader functions solely at the discretion of the Rector and is licensed to lead worship only in the congregation in which the Worship Leader is a member at the time of licensing. (The Worship Leader may be given special permission by Bishop O'Neill to lead worship in other circumstances or in other congregations provided he or she has received an invitation to lead worship by that Rector.)
- A Worship Leader may preach the sermon, if he or she is also a licensed Preacher, or if not a licensed Preacher, may deliver a sermon provided by an ordained priest canonically resident or licensed to officiate in the Diocese.
- The Worship Leader, under the direction of the Rector, will pursue continuing education.

Training

The applicant for Worship Leader will be trained and found competent and knowledgeable to the Rector's satisfaction in the following areas of study:

- The Book of Common Prayer and Prayer Book supplements
- Conduct of public worship
- The Sacraments
- An understanding of the unique liturgical roles of lay people, priests, and deacons
- The Hymnal and other authorized musical sources
- Use of voice
- Customs and administrative procedures of the congregation

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, section A
- Worship and the Book of Common Prayer, section B
- Scripture and Preaching

The time required to complete the training will vary dependent upon the meeting

schedule, but can be expected to take between six months and a year.

Application for a License

- The Rector should send the Worship Leader Application (p. 3 of this document) to the Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary in the Office of the Bishop.
- The license can be revoked by the Bishop upon request of the Rector.

Licenses for Worship Leaders have a term of three years and are not renewable; congregations should consider who should be raised up to fill this role when the license expires.

Documentation

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

1. Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above in "Training"
2. A copy of the application sent to the Bishop by the Rector
3. A copy of the certificate from the Bishop licensing the person to be a Worship Leader

Worship Leader



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 Worship Leader and regularly lead public worship.

He/She was confirmed/received into the Episcopal Church

at _____ on _____
Location _____ Date _____

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 Worship Leader 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