

# EUCCHARISTIC VISITOR LICENSE

“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.” Canon III.4.7

## Required Training for Licensed Lay Ministries (Title III Canon 4: Of Licensed Ministries)

Introduction: “A confirmed communicant in good standing or, in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing, may be licensed by the Ecclesiastical Authority to serve as Pastoral Leader, Worship Leader, Preacher, Eucharistic Minister, Eucharistic Visitor, or Catechist. Requirements and guidelines for the selection, training, continuing education, and deployment of such persons, and the duration of licenses shall be established by the Bishop in consultation with the Commission on Ministry.” Canon 4.1(a)

**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.” Canon III.4.7

Training for a Eucharistic Visitor will include:

- Altar Guild knowledge
- Acolyte duties
- Eucharistic theology
- Commissioning
- The “nuts and bolts” of the service
- Practical pastoral issues
- Accountability/reporting concerns to clergy
- Recording of service
- Maintenance of Communion kit
- Working knowledge of *Book of Common Prayer*
- The practice of prayer (personal spiritual practices and the formation of public prayer)
- Anointing

Resources: *A Manual for Eucharistic Visitors*, Beth Wickenberg Ely

General information regarding licensure:

- All licenses will expire December 31 of even years.
- Applicants may attend training at any congregation in the diocese as directed by the appointed supervisor of this ministry. Churches are encouraged to open their training to persons of any congregation in the diocese. It is the sponsoring clergy person’s responsibility to ensure that the proper required training has been undertaken prior to licensure.
- Yearly continuing education is expected of all licensed ministers in consultation with his/her local priest.
- The Commission on Ministry will provide, at least annually, continuing education opportunities within the diocese for licensed lay ministers.