

The Diocese of Virginia

Worship Leader

A Worship Leader is a person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of a Member of the Clergy who oversees the congregation or other community of faith (e.g., nursing home, hospital, prison, etc.).

Qualifications:

- Confirmed communicant in good standing
- Faithful in worship and in stewardship
- Mature in faith
- Of good repute in the congregation
- Able to lead public worship, demonstrated through service as a lector for at least six months
- Reliability and punctuality
- Ability to 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 translations of the Bible authorized by the Church as the source for readings in public worship
- The Book of Common Prayer, with special emphasis on the lectionary and the rubrics governing lay ministries in the liturgy
- The Hymnal
- The Doctrine and Discipline of the Church
- The conduct of public worship
- Use of the voice
- Sexual Misconduct Prevention Training

General Information for clergy seeking Worship Leader 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.
5. Before a license may be granted, the applicant must complete training in the prevention of sexual misconduct (adult and/or youth, as appropriate).
6. The application must be accompanied by a brief letter from either the applicant or the clergy sponsor that includes the description of the ministry that the Worship Leader would undertake - where, when, with whom, and why.

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Application for License as a Worship Leader

TO THE BISHOP OF VIRGINIA:

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

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I certify this person has completed training on the prevention of sexual misconduct and that records of this training will be maintained in the church office as long as this license is in effect.

Date of Completion of Training on the Prevention of Sexual Misconduct

Signature of Member of 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.

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 Worship Leader.

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