

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

The Bishop may licence lay people to exercise specific ministries within the church, in a parish or the Diocese with any terms or conditions the Bishop considers appropriate. Once licenced by the Bishop the person is known as a Licenced Lay Minister.

The Bishop may revoke a licence issued to a Licenced Lay Minister at any time.

A person may only be granted a licence as a Licenced Lay Minister if:

- (i) They have been recommended by the Priest-in-Charge of the parish, after consultation with the Parish Council;
- (ii) Their name has been presented to the parish at Public Worship on at least three consecutive Sundays; and
- (iii) Any objection to the granting of a licence to the proposed person has been forwarded the Bishop for consideration.
- (iv) They are a confirmed communicant member of the Anglican church
- (v) They have been a Voting Parishioner of the Parish for not less than 12 months. See The Interpretations Statute 2017 for the Definition of Parishioner and Voting Parishioner.

The Bishop may waive any of the requirements in the section (i) – (v) above at their discretion.

The Bishop will normally grant a licence for a period of three years from 1 July in the first year of a Synod triennium.

The Bishop may grant a licence at any time during the three-year term of Synod. Such a licence will lapse at the end of the 30 June in the third year of the Synod triennium.

Applications for renewal of licences must be submitted to the Diocesan Secretary three months before the date the licence is to lapse. The Bishop may renew an existing licence if the conditions in the section (i) – (v)) continue to be met.

Licenced Lay Ministers will be licenced for ministry in their local parish. They may be granted permission by the Bishop to function elsewhere in the Diocese as set out in the Diocesan Ministries Licenced Lay Ministers below.

The Safe Church Contact Person is a special category of Licenced Lay Minister.

A person who is granted a licence allowing them to preach or teach adults must complete approved theological training as directed by the Bishop.

Diocesan Ministries – Licenced Lay Ministers

The Bishop may appoint and licence persons who are not ordained to exercise specific ministries within the Diocese on such terms as the Bishop considers appropriate. Once licenced by the Bishop the person is known as a Licenced Lay Minister.

The Bishop may revoke a licence issued to a Licenced Lay Minister in the Diocese at any time.

A person may only be granted a licence as a Licenced Lay Minister in the Diocese if:

- i) The Bishop has consulted with Bishop-in-Council
- ii) They are a confirmed, communicant member of the Anglican Church
- iii) They are a Voting Parishioner of a parish within the Diocese.

The Bishop may waive any of the requirements in section (i) – (iii) at their discretion.

The Bishop will grant a licence for a period of three years from 1 July in the first year of a Synod triennium.

The Bishop may grant a licence at any time during the three-year term of Synod. Such licence will lapse at the end of the 30 June in the third year of the Synod triennium.

The Bishop may renew an existing licence if the conditions in subsection (c) continue to be met.

Senior Lay Canons, as set out in the Cathedral Statute 2014, are a special category of Diocesan Licence Lay Minister.

The Liturgical Ministries of Licenced Lay Ministers

Liturgical Ministry includes:

- Ministering Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament.
- Leading such parts of the Liturgy as are permitted by the rubrics.
- Leading Morning Prayer or Evening Prayer, according to the First or Second Order of Australian Prayer Book of Australia (APBA) or the Order in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP).
- Leading a Service of Praise, Prayer and Proclamation from APBA.
- Reading sermons according to the direction of the Priest of the Parish.
- Preaching Ministry; preaching sermons (submitting them to the Priest of the Parish or other authorised person).
- Pastoral Ministry; assisting with the work of Pastoral Care under the leadership of the Priest of the Parish in homes, hospitals, retirement villages, prisons.

- Funeral Ministry; conducting funeral and ministering to bereaved people.
- Teaching Ministry; having overall responsibility for the teaching or formation ministry within the parish among young people or amongst the parish as a whole.

A Licensed Lay Minister's licence will only operate within the nominated Parish, but may be extended to cover Ministry Area and Diocesan occasions.

The person for whom the application is made is to be at least eighteen years of age, a person of known Christian character, a frequent and regular confirmed communicant, and one held in high regard by the parishioners; is a Voting Parishioner; and, subject to the standard Safe Church process and training for Safe Church Leaders.

The Person must also have been confirmed or received into the Anglican Church by the Bishop.

Dress

Circumstances will dictate the necessity for Licensed Lay Ministers to be vested. Appropriate everyday wear is regarded as sufficient unless the Licensed Lay Minister is a member of the Sanctuary Party.

Bishop's Regulations concerning Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament

- The ministry of Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament should be seen as the exception rather than the norm.
- Such ministry will be according to the order authorised by the Bishop.
- A sermon should be read or preached and suitable sermons are available from the Diocesan Website.

(Ref: The Licensing Statute 2017 Clauses 15 & 16.)