

Evangelist

Description, Role and Authority

All baptized members share in the ministry of the Church and are equally called to be evangelists. This critical ministry should be encouraged, supported and affirmed within each congregation in the normal course of our worship and communal life together. As the Body of Christ we are called to speak and build relationships, helping others to that place where they can experience God's transforming love. Evangelism is every Christian's responsibility, and it is not limited to the ordained clergy or to those who serve as Licensed Lay Evangelists.

The role of the Licensed Lay Evangelist, then, is to inspire, encourage, and equip church members to be effective witnesses to the Good News in Jesus Christ. She or he will be comfortable sharing his or her own faith story and drawing others to God, and sharing his or her gifts with others.

The Evangelist is not primarily concerned with recruiting new church members, but is concerned with inspiring and supporting *others* in their ministry of evangelism. The Evangelist may practice this inspiration and support through prayer, or by providing spiritual practices and practical tools to his or her fellow church members for talking with others. She or he should be able to utilize and explain the latest communication technologies, and their potential utility for spreading the Good News.

- The Lay Evangelist is a confirmed communicant in good standing (or in extraordinary circumstances, subject to guidelines established by the Bishop, a communicant in good standing) who functions with the permission of the Bishop and under the direct supervision the congregation's rector.
- Once licensed, the Lay Evangelist serves solely at the discretion of the Rector.
- The Lay Evangelist, under the direction of the Rector, will pursue continuing education.

Training

The applicant for Evangelist will be trained and found competent to the Rector's satisfaction in the following areas:

- Holy Scriptures, interpretation, contents and background
- The Baptismal Covenant and its application to the ministry of all Christians
- Individual and communal prayer
- An overview of Church history including current events in The Episcopal Church and the Anglican Communion
- Christian ethics and moral theology

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
- Scripture and Preaching
- Church History and Theology

- Christian Life in the World
- Evangelism

The Evangelist will also read and discuss *Unbinding the Gospel: Real Life Evangelism* by Martha Grace Reese which is based on her four-year study of superb evangelism in mainline Protestant congregations, funded by the Lilly Endowment.

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

- Safeguarding God's Children
- Safeguarding God's People
- Anti-racism

Application for a License

- The Rector should send the Evangelist Application to the Executive Assistant to the Canon to the Ordinary in the Office of the Bishop.
- Forms to request or to renew these licenses are available at http://www.coloradiocese.org/04_ministrysupport/commissiononministry.html or by phoning the Office of the Bishop at 303-837-1173.
- The Rector shall request that the Evangelist'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 Evangelist which shall contain the following:

1. Documentation of training, examination and competency in the areas listed above in "Training"
2. Certification of the Evangelist'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 an Evangelist

Evangelist



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 as an Evangelist for this congregation .

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 _____

Anti-racism _____
Please enclose a copy of the certificate. 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 an Evangelist 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