The Episcopal Church extensively revised the Title III Canons having to do with ministry in August, 2003. One of the most extensive sections of these revisions has to do with lay ministry and the licensing of lay ministers in the Episcopal Church. Lay licenses are good for a three year period, beginning March 1, 2018 - March 1, 2021. You may submit names of new parishioners at any point during this time period. The following specific lay ministries are licensed in this diocese:

A. WORSHIP LEADER – A lay person who regularly leads public worship such as Morning or Evening Prayer under the direction of a member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

B. EUCHARISTIC MINISTER (LEM) - A lay person (confirmed adult communicant in good standing) who is authorized to administer the Chalice at a Celebration of Holy Eucharist. A Eucharistic Minister acts under the direction of the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith. Under extraordinary circumstances, this person may be authorized to distribute the Bread at the Eucharist.

C. EUCHARISTIC VISITORS (LEV) - A lay person authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Sunday 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 act under the direction of the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

D. CATECHISTS – A lay person who is authorized to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception and Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows, and who shall function under the direction of the member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

E. LECTOR – A person who reads the scripture lessons and/or leads the Prayers of the People during worship. This ministry no longer requires a diocesan license; but such persons should be licensed for this ministry by the congregation in which they function. Such persons would continue to be trained by the rector or vicar in charge of the congregation. Specially printed licenses for Lectors will be available from the bishop’s office for use in your congregation.

Licenses for the first four lay ministries listed above will be issued upon proper application to the Bishop through the rector or priest in charge or the lay person responsible for the lay ministry.

Lectors are licensed by the parish and not by the diocese. Training is to be conducted by the parish priest in the parish setting. Blank forms may be obtained from Leigh Saunders at the diocesan office.