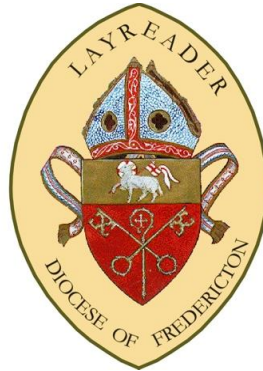


Layreader Update 2017

For Clergy and Layreaders



The Anglican Diocese of Fredericton

Layreader Website

<http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/layreaders/>

Clergy Resources Website

<http://anglican.nb.ca/programs/layreaders/>


May 13, 2017

Issue 2

WORKING TOGETHER TO THE GLORY OF GOD

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*Working
Together to the
Glory of God!*



Message from the Warden of Layreaders

This past year has seen the layreader ministry grow and change in amazing ways! Currently there are 341 layreaders assisting in the diocese including 24 layreaders-in-training, 217 parochial and 100 diocesan layreaders. Clergy and layreaders have embraced the training sessions that have been offered and the presenters have been phenomenal.

Following Bishop David's presentation relating to *Church Doctrine* in May 2016 he also presented *See Through the Scripture* workshops in both Saint John and Fredericton in October. These sessions were followed by an excellent workshop relating to the *Lord's Prayer* presented by Bishop Bill Hockin. The warden of layreaders also facilitated sessions relating to the *Reading of Scripture and Liturgy in Public* with layreaders and lectors in Perth-Andover followed by a *See Through the Scriptures 4 - week study* in the Parish of Hammond River and the *Lord's Prayer* course in Florenceville using the videos and handouts of Bishop Edward's and Bishop Hockin's lectures.

Using available course content, individual parish groups as well as deanery groups have also held training sessions in the parishes of Moncton, Kent, Hampton, Musquash, St. Andrew's, Stanley, Bathurst, Chatham and Woodstock. Some layreaders have availed themselves of the opportunity to explore both the *Church Doctrine* and the *Lord's Prayer* modules through self-study available on the diocesan website or through mail.

In 2017 we moved forward with a an aggressive agenda. In March Bishop Hockin presented a very well received workshop relating to *Exploring the Practical Steps to Sermon Preparation and Preaching* for Layreaders with 65 people attending. This was followed by the Rev. David Peer presenting a morning workshop in Sussex that addressed *Basic Guidelines for Layreaders Developing Intercessory Prayers of the People*. In an effort to reach as many layreaders in the diocese as possible teleconferencing was offered. Thirty- five layreaders attended on site as well as 7 teleconferencing sites with a total of 19 participants. Both the *Sermon Preparation* and *Prayers of the People* workshops were video recorded and will be available on the layreader website as part of the training program by August of this year.

Layreaders have been diligent in providing feedback through an evaluation process. Overall ratings for the courses and workshops attended is 4.5 on a Likert five point agreement scale with 5 being classified as being very pleased. Comments provided by layreaders through evaluations have been appreciated and have helped frame and improve the development and delivery of new courses. Last, but certainly not least, feedback has been very positive from clergy and layreaders about the value of the self-assessment process and initiation of layreader covenants, both of which have provided an opportunity to discuss the layreader ministry with respect to roles and gift discernment at the parish level. Another area of importance and value has been the

development and presentation of Layreader Emeritus certificates - which replaces the Bishop's List - recognizing those retiring as lay readers.

Resources for layreaders are continually being added to the website. Of particular interest are the narrated weekly lections by the Rev. Canon Bruce Glencross, and Lection Connection by the Rev. Canon George Eves, which briefly explores the links between the passages set in the Revised Common Lectionary for the coming Sunday.

There isn't one part of this past year that could have been accomplished without the efforts of many including Cheryl Jacobs, Ben Bourque, Irene Adams, Bishop David, Bishop Bill, Rev. Peer and most importantly you - the layreaders and clergy. As well, each archdeaconry has appointed both clergy and layreaders as members of a team that meets by teleconference four times a year to help move the program forward.

This year's layreader update document provides highlights of core foundational and continuing education courses as well as where layreaders and clergy are able to locate course materials and dates and locations of training. The Appendices offer commonly referred to definitions; clergy and layreader document information; frequently asked questions; and a list of archdeaconry contact information.

Thank you one and all for your support and the many gifts you so willingly share. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time.

Many blessings,

Cleo

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Layreader Courses at a Glance

Core Foundational Courses

Foundational courses are designed to provide layreaders with a basic understanding of scripture, liturgy, doctrine, history, leadership and preaching from which to build their layreader ministry.

For layreaders in-training core foundational courses to be completed include:

- Reading Scripture & Liturgy in Public
- Anglican Worship (The Lord's Prayer; Prayers of the People; The Book of Common Prayer; Unpacking the Creeds)
- Biblical Foundations
- Church Doctrine
- Church History
- Leadership
- Introduction to Sermon Preparation

To date the following have been developed:

- Reading Scripture & Liturgy in Public
- Biblical Foundations
- Church Doctrine
- Worship: The Lord's Prayer
- Worship: Prayers of the People
- Introduction to Sermon Preparation

Parochial and diocesan layreaders are strongly encouraged to participate in the courses as they arise for two reasons. The first reason is that new information will be provided. Secondly, current layreaders have a wealth of knowledge that puts them in the enviable position of being wonderful mentors to new layreaders.

Continuing Education Courses

Continuing education courses will be introduced over time. Topics identified to date include increasing knowledge about spiritual discipline, discernment, pastoral care, youth and intergenerational ministries, evangelism, gospel culture, and the mission-shaped church. To date one continuing education course has been developed. It is titled *S.H.A.P.E. - Your Shape for God's Service* and is a discernment course designed to help determine your spiritual gifts. The *Stepping into Evangelism* sessions offered in 2017 also provide an opportunity for continuing education and on May 13th, 2017 Bishop Edwards will present the topic of *Gospel Culture*.

Course Materials

All core and continuing education course outline information is available on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>. (with the exception of the Stepping in Evangelism session). Facilitator toolkits as well as information to deliver courses is available on both the layreader and clergy resource site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Program or Course Attendance

It is the layreaders responsibility to keep track of courses taken using the *Layreader Training Event Record* as previously mentioned. However, it is the clergy and/or course facilitator's responsibility to submit attendance information to synod office where a record of attendance will be maintained for all core foundation and continuing education courses offered in the parish, deanery, or diocese.

Program or Course Availability

All layreader programs or courses being offered will be advertised through:

- the Layreader Site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>
- the Diocesan Event Calendar <http://anglican.nb.ca/>
- the Archdeaconry Warden(s) of Layreaders
- Diocesan eNews

Layreaders and clergy are encouraged to assist those without computer technology within their respective groups to obtain all information and videos needed to participate in the program.



Appendix A - Definitions

Team Ministry

Bishop David has provided a definition of team ministry that profoundly encourages each of us to be an active participant in the dynamic movement of building up our various ministries...together. He says..."Each parish functions as a unique unit but is also a significant partner within the greater dynamic...the Diocese. Team ministry is an opportunity to identify the spiritual gifts of each lay person and cleric, and to work together to the glory of God".

Layreader Definitions

A layreader is a layperson authorized by the bishop in the Diocese of Fredericton to officiate at services of worship or take a leadership role in certain parts of a service. Anglican layreaders are licensed by the bishop to a particular parish (parochial) or the diocese at large (diocesan) for a one-year term. Layreaders require annual renewal of licenses following review and recommendation by incumbent clergy. Layreader applications are available for clergy use on the diocesan website - clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>

Layreader-in-Training ~ A layreader-in-training is someone who, under the direction of parish, deanery or diocesan clergy, has completed a time of discernment and has been approved by both the incumbent and bishop to enter a layreader training program following an appropriate application process. The primary responsibility of a layreader-in-training is to be part of the ministry team and to undertake a flexible two-year training period to become a parochial or diocesan layreader. Layreader training will include learning to assist during services as directed by clergy and the completion of core foundational curriculum topics based on:

- Reading Scripture & Liturgy in Public
- Anglican Worship (The Lord's Prayer; Prayers of the People; The Book of Common Prayer; Unpacking the Creeds)
- Biblical Foundations
- Church Doctrine
- Church History
- Leadership
- Introduction to Sermon Preparation

A layreader-in-training will wear a layreader medallion with a light blue ribbon when vesting.

Parochial Layreader ~ A parochial layreader is licensed in a parish and has received certification by the bishop to offer layreader duties under the direction of parish clergy following an appropriate application and training process. Their role is primarily liturgical

in nature. They have a responsibility to be an active member of the ministry team in their parish, assisting during services as directed by the incumbent. Examples include:

- reading scriptures,
- officiating services,
- administering the chalice,
- leading the prayers of the people, and
- taking home communion to sick and shut-ins

A parochial layreader will have completed the studies in reading scripture and liturgy in public, biblical foundations, worship, church doctrine, church history, leadership and basic sermon preparation or equivalents. Continuing education is required.

A parochial layreader will wear a layreader medallion with a dark blue ribbon when vesting.

Diocesan Layreader ~ A diocesan layreader is licensed in the diocese by the bishop to offer layreader duties under the direction of the incumbent, the archdeacon or bishop following an appropriate application process. Their primary responsibility is to be an active member of the ministry team in their home parish and to support neighbouring parishes. A diocesan layreader will have completed the studies in reading scripture and liturgy in public, biblical foundations, worship, church doctrine, church history, leadership, and advanced sermon preparation and preaching as well as a discernment course (or equivalents).

Upon completion of training and at the clergy/bishop's direction, the diocesan layreader may lead services, prepare and deliver the homily/sermon and travel to parishes/churches requiring assistance. Continuing education is required.

A diocesan layreader will wear a blue scarf with layreader crest when vesting. (See FAQs)

Archdeaconry Warden of Layreaders (ADWLs)

Bishop Edwards has asked each archdeaconry to identify individuals to act in a liaison capacity between the Warden of Layreaders and members of the archdeaconry while collaboratively disseminating and implementing the layreader training program. To date each archdeaconry has one or two people working together to fill this role. A list of ADWLs can be found at the end of this document.

Appendix B - Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I am 17 years old...can I become a layreader?

A. Yes. A congregation member can become a layreader at 16 years of age. To begin the process (at any age) discuss your desire with your incumbent and complete a self-assessment questionnaire. Once you and your incumbent have determined your call to a layreader ministry, he or she will complete an application form and submit it to the warden of layreaders who will review the application, then refer it on to the bishop. The bishop is the only person who can issue a layreader licence in the Diocese of Fredericton.

Q. I have been a parochial/ diocesan layreader for many years. Do I have to take these courses?

A. The short answer is no. However, the layreader courses can be considered as both core foundational courses for layreaders-in-training and continuing education courses for people who are current layreaders. Current licensed layreaders are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the courses for two reasons. The first reason is that new information will be provided. The second reason is that as a current layreader you have a wealth of knowledge that puts you in the enviable position of being a wonderful mentor to new layreaders. Complete the new self-assessment form to help you determine your needs.

Q. I don't have a layreader medallion. How do I obtain one?

A. Discuss the need for layreader medallions and scarves with your incumbent. Medallions and scarves can be purchased by contacting Cheryl Jacobs at Synod office (506) 459-1801 or cjacobs@diofton.ca.

- Light blue or dark blue ribbon \$2.00
- Layreader medallion with ribbon \$23.00
- Diocesan layreader scarf: \$40.00

Q. I am a diocesan layreader and have a dark blue (or purple ribbon) and medallion. Do I have to wear a blue scarf?

A. If you are a current layreader, no you do not need to have a scarf, and may continue to wear your medallion. If you do purchase a scarf please do not wear both the medallion and scarf at the same time. Your medallion may also be passed on to another layreader or returned to Cheryl. All newly licensed diocesan layreaders are to wear the blue layreader scarf.

Q. I don't have a computer and do not use the Internet. How will I know when courses are being offered?

A. The Archdeaconry Warden of Layreaders in your deanery will be aware of upcoming training events and will be communicating that information with clergy. It would also be helpful for you to ask a layreader in your parish who has access to the Internet to keep you informed.

Q. Will I be able to take courses in other parishes?

A. Yes, however, it would be best to contact the person giving the course to make sure there is room. There may on occasion be a course that has some limitations.

Q. If I miss a training event will it be offered again in my area or deanery?

A. Yes, it will be offered again as the need arises. We are also looking at the possibility of offering online training in the future.



Appendix C - Layreader Documents

Layreader Self-Assessment

One of the interesting comments that came from talking to so many people was the idea of learning what layreaders think about their ministry. The purpose of the self-assessment document is to help you, and the clergy who support you, gain a better understanding of your needs and desires as a layreader in the Diocese of Fredericton.

All current layreaders and those entering the layreader-in-training period should complete a layreader self-assessment and keep it as part of their layreader documentation. The self-assessment can be used as a resource when reviewing your layreader ministry goals with the clergy responsible for renewing your yearly licence. The layreader self-assessment form can be obtained by contacting the warden of layreaders or found on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/> under Resources.

Layreader Event Record

The layreader event record is a user-friendly way of keeping track of training events or spiritual growth events that layreaders attend. The event record can be completed online and saved or printed as a paper copy. It can be found on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/> under Resources

Appendix D - Clergy Documents

Layreader Covenant

A covenant is a 'working agreement' outlining areas of responsibility between the layreader-in-training, the parochial layreader, or the diocesan layreader and the incumbent. It reflects the understanding of duties, roles, responsibilities and expectations in the areas of liturgy, ministry in the parish and diocese, and participation in layreader training events.

This covenant will be in effect for two years or when a layreader-in-training completes training and becomes a layreader (parochial or diocesan), in which case a new covenant is signed. It should also be reviewed and revised according to the direction layreader ministry is evolving within the parish. The covenant will be signed by both the Incumbent and layreader.

Copies of the Layreader Covenant can be found on the diocesan website under the clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Layreader Application Forms; Covenant; Event Tracking Records; Self Assessment and Training Attendance Forms

These documents are located on the diocesan website under the clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Appendix E- Contact Information - Archdeaconry Wardens of Layreaders

THE RT. REV'D DAVID EDWARDS BISHOP OF FREDERICTON 115 CHURCH ST. FREDERICTON, NB E3B 4C8 dedwards@diofton.ca (506) 459-1801	CLEO CYR WARDEN OF LAYREADERS 28 AUTUMN AVE. QUISPAMISIS, NB E2E 4R9 cleocyr1@gmail.com (506) 847-0116/(506) 647-8170
ARCHDEACONRY WARDEN OF LAYREADERS THE ARCHDEACONRY OF KINGSTON AND THE KENNEBECASIS THE REV. DAVID TURNER david_aleksander_turner@yahoo.ca (506) 832-3375	ARCHDEACONRY WARDEN OF LAYREADERS THE ARCHDEACONRY CHATHAM THE REV. DEACON ROSE STEEVES rose.steeves@gmail.com (506) 215-1038
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF SAINT JOHN HAROLD MCINNIS mcinnis4@bellaliant.net (506) 696-2159	THE ARCHDEACONRY OF CHATHAM: THE REV. SANDY MACPHERSON macpsan@hotmail.com (506) 623-8882 / (506) 546-3225
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF ST. ANDREWS LINDA ELLIS linda@futurenets.net (506) 659-2587/754-2180	MONCTON ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. DR. DAN GOODWIN danielcorey.goodwin@gmail.com (506) 962-1448
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF FREDERICTON DON ADAMS rusticcountry@gmail.com (506) 472-4366 / 469-0540.	MONCTON ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. BRUCE GLENCROSS bruceglencross@hotmail.com (506) 785-9092
THE ARCHDEACONRY OF WOODSTOCK THE REV. DEACON FRAN BEDELL fbedell12@twc.com (207) 728-3541	

Note: The archdeaconry regional deans and archdeacons are also part of the archdeaconry teams. Their contact information may be found on the Diocesan website at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>