

CANON 11

LAY READERS

1. Order

The order of Lay Readers shall be comprised of qualified lay persons licensed by the Bishop.

2. Qualifications

1. A Lay Reader shall be a member in full communion of the Anglican Church of Canada, as defined in Canon 1, of at least one year's standing, being a regular Communicant and of the full age of 18 years and not in Holy Orders.
2. No one shall be presented to the Bishop to be licensed as a Lay Reader unless recommended by the Incumbent and Churchwardens with the concurrence of the parish/vestry council.
3. Before new Lay Readers are licensed by the Bishop, they shall have completed a course of study approved by the Incumbent and the Bishop and served a one-year probationary period during which time the candidate may perform the duties of a licensed Lay Reader under the guidance of the Incumbent.

3. Licenses and Admission

1. Lay Readers serve at the pleasure of the Bishop and under the direction of the Incumbent or Priest-in-Charge.
2. A Lay Reader shall be admitted to the Order by the Bishop, or some other cleric appointed by the Bishop.
3. There shall be a Lay Readers Association of which all Lay Readers and probationary Lay Readers shall be members and the Bishop shall be a patron. There shall be a warden and deputy warden of the Lay Readers Association appointed by the Bishop, who shall hold office at the pleasure of the Bishop. The Lay Readers Association shall appoint its own officers and executive committee as laid out in the by-laws of the Association.
4. Upon the death, resignation, or removal of the Incumbent of a parish, the license of any Lay Reader serving in such parish shall be deemed to continue with the Priest-in-Charge until the appointment of the Incumbent's successor and may, with the consent of the Bishop and the new Incumbent, be re-appointed to the parish.
5. If a Lay Reader wishes to resign the office, he or she does so in writing to the Bishop.

4. Duties

1. The duties of the Lay Reader at the invitation of the Incumbent shall be to officiate at or assist in those parts of Divine Service not requiring a bishop or priest, including the administration of the chalice, and to provide such other duties as may be requested.

2. An additional Episcopal Letter of Permission is required from the Bishop for any other lay person assisting the Incumbent with the administration of the Eucharist.
3. Lay Readers shall perform their duties and services in the parish of which they are members and may perform such duties elsewhere only with the approval of their own Incumbent.
4. A Lay Reader shall participate in continuing programs, prescribed by the Bishop and the warden or deputy warden of the Lay Readers Association from time to time, for his or her training and education in the faith.
5. Lay Readers may be appointed by the Bishop to have pastoral and administrative responsibilities in parishes without an Incumbent, such ministry to be under the supervision of the Bishop or the Bishop's designate.

5. Remuneration

Remuneration and travel expense reimbursement for Lay Readers shall be set by Diocesan Synod Council annually and shall be paid by the parish in which the Lay Readers are invited to serve. Except in unusual circumstances, this will not apply to service in the Lay Reader's home parish.