

Do you feel called to serve God and the Church?



*Presented by the European Institute of Christian Studies
The Convocation of Episcopal Churches in Europe
The Rt. Rev. Pierre W. Whalon, Bishop-in-Charge*



All baptized persons are called to be ministers, according to their different gifts. This ministry can be exercised in a variety of different ways among the laity and the ordained. Anyone called to a specific licensed lay or ordained ministry has the following responsibilities:

- 1) To pattern his/her life in accordance with the teachings of Christ
- 2) To be faithful in prayer and the reading and study of the Scriptures
- 3) To conform to the doctrine, discipline and worship of the Episcopal Church

Among the many ministries open to the laity, seven are **licensed** by the Episcopal Church, as per Title III: Canon 4.3-9, to provide recognition of specific gifts and training, to ensure standardization and accountability in worship, and to support other ministries. These **licensed lay ministries** are:

1) Pastoral Leader

A Pastoral Leader is authorized to exercise pastoral responsibility, lead public worship and preach within a specific congregation where no clergy leadership is present. Congregations in need of a Pastoral Leader will be identified by the bishop as the circumstances arise.

2) Worship Leader

A Worship Leader is authorized to lead Morning or Evening Prayer in a congregation with permission of the bishop under the direct supervision of the clergy or a Lay Pastoral Leader.

3) Preacher

A Preacher is authorized to preach with permission of the bishop and under the direct supervision of the clergy or a Lay Pastoral Leader.

4) Catechist

A Catechist is authorized to prepare people for baptism, confirmation, reception or the reaffirmation of baptismal vows with permission of the bishop and under the direct supervision of the clergy or a Lay Pastoral Leader.

5) Eucharistic Visitor

A Eucharistic Visitor is a layperson authorized to take the Blessed Sacraments (consecrated Bread and Wine) following a celebration of the Eucharist to members of the congregation unable to be present. He or she should act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise under the Priest or a Lay Pastoral Leader.

6) Evangelist

An Evangelist is to inspire, encourage and equip church members to be effective witnesses to the Good News in Jesus Christ, and must be comfortable sharing his or her own faith story in order to draw others to God. He or she functions with permission of the bishop and under the direct supervision of the clergy.

7) Eucharistic Minister

A Eucharistic Minister is authorized to administer the Blessed Sacraments at a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist (in some Parishes and Dioceses, only the chalice). He or she should act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise under the Priest or a Lay Pastoral Leader.

If you feel a call to one of the licensed lay ministries your first step is to speak with your rector concerning your desire and seek his/her guidance.



To equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ... [Ephesians 4:12](#)

A **Vocational Discernment Conference** will help you decide what God is calling you to DO or BE. The VDC is offered each year by COMB in November.

For the Discernment Conference, please contact
The Rev. Mary Ellen Dolan - priest1295@yahoo.fr

A **Spiritual Retreat** is another option which is offered by COMB each year in the spring.

For the Spirituality Retreat, please contact either
The Rev. Dorothee Hahn - revdorotheehahn@4edition.org
The Rev. Richard Cole - cole@ebu.ch

The **Academy for Parish Leadership** is a project of the European Institute of Christian Studies. Through the Academy, EICS delivers quality programs each year equipping lay leaders for the work of ministry.

For more information on the **Academy for Parish Leadership** contact:
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