

## Canon XXIII – Lay Ministry

**Sec. 23.01** Lay Ministers will be licensed in the Anglican Diocese of San Joaquin in accordance with the Canons of this Diocese and the Constitution and Canons of the Anglican Province of North America.

**Sec. 23.02** (a) A Pastoral Leader is a Lay Person licensed to exercise pastoral or administrative responsibility in a Congregation under special circumstances and may be licensed to lead regularly the Offices authorized by the Book of Common Prayer. Prior to licensing, a Pastoral Leader shall be trained, examined, and found competent in the following subjects:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures, contents and background;
- (2) The Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal;
- (3) The conduct of public worship;
- (4) Use of the voice;
- (5) Church History;
- (6) The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and the Catechism;
- (7) Parish Administration;
- (8) Appropriate Canons;
- (9) Pastoral Care.

(b) A Pastoral Leader shall not be licensed if, in the judgment of the Bishop or Ecclesiastical Authority, the Congregation is able to and has had reasonable opportunity to secure a resident Member of the Clergy in charge.

**Sec. 23.03** (a) A Lay Preacher is a person licensed to preach. Prior to licensing, the Lay Preacher shall be trained, examined, and found competent in the following subjects:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures, contents and background
- (2) The Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal
- (3) The conduct of public worship
- (4) Use of the voice
- (5) Church History
- (6) Christian Ethics and Moral Theology

- (7) The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and the Catechism
- (8) Appropriate Canons
- (9) Pastoral Care
- (10) Homiletics

(b) Persons so licensed shall only preach in congregations upon the initiative and under the supervision of the Member of the Clergy in charge.

**Sec. 23.04** (a) A Lay Eucharistic Minister is a person licensed to this extraordinary ministry. The Lay Eucharistic Minister shall have one or both of the following functions, as specified in the license:

- (1) Administering the elements at any Celebration of Holy Eucharist in the absence of a sufficient number of Priests or Deacons assisting the celebrant;
- (2) Directly following a Celebration of the Holy Eucharist on Sunday or other Principal Celebrations, taking the Sacrament consecrated at the Celebration to members of the Congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration.

(b) Qualifications, requirements, and guidelines for the selection, training, and use of Lay Eucharistic Ministers shall be established by the Bishop.

(c) This ministry is not to take the place of the ministry of Priests and Deacons in the exercise of their office, including regular visitation of members unable to attend the Celebration of the Holy Eucharist. A Lay Eucharistic Minister should normally be under the direction of a Deacon of the Congregation, if there be one.

**Sec. 23.05** A Catechist is a person licensed to prepare persons for Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, and the Reaffirmation of Baptismal Vows. Prior to licensing, Catechists shall be trained, examined and found competent in the following subjects:

- (1) The Holy Scriptures, contents and background
- (2) The Book of Common Prayer and The Hymnal
- (3) Church History
- (4) The Church's Doctrine as set forth in the Creeds and the Catechism  
Methods of Catechesis

**Sec. 23.06** A Lay Reader is a person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of a Member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation. Training and

licensing shall be under the authority of the Bishop for those persons recommended by the Member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation, as provided by the Canons of the Diocese.

**Sec. 23.07** A Lector is a person trained in reading of the Word and appointed without license by the Member of the Clergy in charge of the Congregation to read lessons or lead the Prayers of the People.