



Diocese of Ottawa

Lay Readers' Commissioning Service

Licensing of Lay Reader

Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers: Dear friends in Christ, God has gathered us into the fellowship of the universal Church. As members together of his body, Christ calls us to minister in his name and, according to our gifts, to be instruments of his love in the world. Within this ministry, Lay Readers are called to serve the Church of God and to work together with clergy and other ministers. They are to lead public worship, to preach and teach the word of God, to assist at the Eucharist and to share in pastoral and evangelistic work. As authorized lay ministers, they are to encourage the ministries of God's people, as the Spirit distributes gifts among us all. They are called to help the whole Church to participate in God's mission to the world.

The Presentation of Candidate for Admission

The candidate for admission stands and is presented to the Warden of Lay Readers.

Incumbent: I present to you ...*name*..., licensed by the Bishop, for the ministry of Licensed Lay Reader in this Diocese.

Warden of Lay Readers: Are they a person of Christian character, well versed in the Holy Scriptures and in the doctrines of our faith?

Incumbent: *They are.*

Warden of Lay Readers: Have they been sufficiently prepared for the duties of this office?

Incumbent: *They have.*

The Warden of Lay Readers turns to the candidate and says

In order that we may be satisfied that you are ready to begin the ministry of a Lay reader, you must now answer the questions we put to you.

Warden of Lay Readers: Do you believe that God is calling you to this ministry?

Candidate: I do so believe.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you be faithful in leading the people of God in worship, and in preaching the word to them?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you be diligent in prayer, in reading Holy Scripture, and in all studies that will deepen your faith and fit you to bear witness to the truth of the gospel?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you endeavour to fashion your life according to the way of Christ?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you promote unity, peace and love in the Church and in the world, and especially among those whom you serve?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you work closely with your colleagues in ministry and encourage the gifts of others?

Candidate: By the grace of God, I will.

The Warden of Lay Readers invites the clergy and Lay Readers to stand and asks the clergy and Lay Readers: Will you work closely with your new Lay Reader and encourage them to use their gifts and develop their ministry?

Incumbent and Lay readers: We will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you commend *them* to the people amongst whom *they* will minister?

Incumbent and Lay Readers: We will.

The candidate turns and faces the congregation.

Warden of Lay Readers: Dear friends in Christ, ...*name*... has been chosen for the office of a Lay Reader. Will you uphold and encourage *them* in *their* ministry?

All: We will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Will you continue to pray for *them*?

All: We will.

Warden of Lay Readers: Let us pray (*Silence*)

Look with favour upon those whom you have called, O Lord, to be Lay Readers in your Church; and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit, that seeking your glory, they may minister your Word with steadfast devotion, and by the constancy of their faith may adorn in all things the doctrine of Christ our Saviour; who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

Warden of Lay Readers: In the name of God and of this congregation, I commission you ...*name*..., as Licensed Lay Reader [and give you this (Scarf/Medallion) as a token of your ministry]. Amen.

The Diocesan Warden of Lay Readers hands the newly admitted Lay Reader their licence with these words:

Receive authority to exercise the office of a Lay Reader in this Diocese. May the Lord be with you in all your work and ministry from this day onwards. Amen.

When they have been admitted, the Warden of Lay Readers blesses them in these words

May the Lord give you wisdom, courage, strength and love to do his will, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you, and on your work done in his name, now and always.

All: Amen.

Warden of Lay Readers: Let us welcome the newly licensed Lay Reader.

All: May the word of Christ dwell in you richly.