

Licensing Requirements

Worship Leader

Commission on Ministry of the Diocese of Hawai'i

A worship leader exercises a ministry of presence focused on bringing people together through worship. They are passionate liturgical practitioners who connect people with God and each other in community. They are qualified and equipped to lead others in a variety of worship experiences including prayerbook offices, and creative liturgies as appropriate.

The Worship Leader is defined in the Canons of The Episcopal Church as “a lay person who regularly leads public worship under the direction of the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith” (Title III, Canon 4, Section 4).

For an application to be considered, the applicant for Worship Leader License will be able to meet the following criteria:

Skills

- Demonstrates facility with approved Episcopal liturgical resources (BCP Eucharist, Daily Offices, Prayers, Lectionary, Hymnals, etc.).
- Demonstrates ability to create materials necessary for exercise of ministry (a customary, worship bulletin, order of service, etc.)
- Demonstrates competency in culturally appropriate histories and practices, such as history of Anglican/Episcopal Church in Hawaiian Islands, use of liturgical olelo, and culturally appropriate occasions.
- Demonstrates ability to create liturgies beyond the BCP that may include context-appropriate scriptures and a variety of spiritual practices such as lectio, theological reflection, healing liturgies, etc.
- Demonstrates facilitation skills such as deep listening, situational awareness, adaptability.
- Demonstrates confidence in public speaking and presentation.
- Exercises clear boundaries in role as worship leader.
- Demonstrates appreciation for multi-culturalism.

Pre-requisites

1. The Worship Leader must be a confirmed communicant in good standing of the Episcopal Church and in the congregation in which he/she will serve. The applicant must have the written endorsement of this ministry by the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or community of faith.
2. Complete Safe Church Training.
3. Complete a background check.
4. The Worship Leader must complete education through the Waiolaihui'ia Center for Ministry, be recommended by the Dean for licensure, be interviewed and recommended by the Commission on Ministry, and approved for license by the Bishop.

Policies

1. Licensing in one congregation does not entitle the Worship Leader to lead worship in another congregation of which he/she is not a communicant. This can be done with the permission of the bishop and overseeing clergy of each congregation.
2. The Worship Leader must be at least 18 years of age.
3. This license is for non-stipendiary ministry.
4. Licenses are approved for 2 years, and continued education is required to renew.
5. The Worship Leader is not licensed to preach his/her own sermon. Instead, he/she may invite a licensed preacher with the approval of the Bishop or read a sermon from *Episcopal Church Sermons That Work*: http://www.episcopalchurch.org/sermons_that_work.htm. Any other sermon sources must be approved by the Bishop before being used.