Eucharistic Visitor

Canon III.4.7
A Eucharistic Visitor is a layperson authorized to take the Consecrated Elements in a timely manner following a Celebration of Holy Eucharist to members of the congregation who, by reason of illness or infirmity, were unable to be present at the Celebration. A Eucharistic Visitor should normally act under the direction of a Deacon, if any, or otherwise, the Member of the Clergy or other leader exercising oversight of the congregation or other community of faith.

Policy
1. Only those persons recommended by the rector, vicar or priests-in-charge of their congregation may become Eucharistic Visitors. Confirmed members in good standing of their congregation may be recommended to serve as EVs after they have served as an Eucharistic Minister in the congregation at least three times.
2. Training includes completion of:
   • Eucharistic Visitor seminar conducted by laypersons or clergy of the congregation or diocese and using materials approved by the diocese
   • Safeguarding God’s People and Safeguarding God’s Children (Available online: Contact The Rev. Deacon Kathey Crowe at kathleencrowe@sbcglobal.net)
   • Diversity Sensitivity training as established by the diocese (when in place)
   • Three visits supervised and evaluated by an experienced EV
   • Background check (Praesidium or GuideOne programs)
3. Eucharistic Visitors shall make visits in pairs, preferably as unrelated individuals. The second person may be an unlicensed church member.
4. Diocesan Eucharistic Visitor licenses shall be valid for a period of three years. The licenses may be renewed based on the satisfactory completion of a review seminar and with the approval of the rector, vicar, or priest-in-charge of the congregation.

Qualities of a Licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitor
• Demonstrate an understanding of and respect for the Eucharistic practices of the Church.
• Demonstrate pastoral skills including those related to people who are home-bound, in hospital or nursing home, or those who are terminally ill or dying
• Understand the importance of confidentiality
• Commit to serve regularly as a EV

Competency
• Ability to distribute the elements gracefully during the Holy Communion.
• Knowledge of Eucharistic theology, including the Reserved Sacrament
• Pastoral skills including being able to address issues related to the home-bound, those in hospital or nursing home, the terminally ill, death and dying
• Demonstrate competency with the liturgical services used in ministering to the sick and shut-in
• Understand the mechanics of administration in various settings.
• Ability to be respectfully and gracefully present in the homes and institutions they will visit
- Comfort in praying aloud with others, including appropriate unscripted prayers
- Willingness and ability to maintain confidentiality
- Commit to report regularly to the clergy on those visited, especially when life changes have occurred

**Licensing Process for Eucharistic Visitor**
1. Meet with your clergy to discuss your intent to pursue a license as Eucharistic Visitor. This discussion may include some of the questions shown below.
2. Identify the next EV training session.
3. Upon completion of your training to the satisfaction of your trainer and clergy, and receive the application form as part of the training materials.
4. Complete your application, have the trainer and your clergy sign it, and make copies of the application for clergy and applicant, then submit the original to the bishop.
5. Work with your clergy to arrange a commissioning service. A sample service is attached.

**Discussion questions**
- Tell about when you began ministry.
- How have you experienced God’s grace in your life?
- What would you tell a member who asked, “What is important to know about God?”
- Tell a Bible story and how it reflects your faith story.
- What have you been reading recently?
- What do think about the Nicene Creed?
- What lessons have you learned while serving in ministry?
- Tell us about the person who has been most influential in your growth as a Christian.
- How have you experienced God’s grace in the last few days?
- What is your first memory of receiving communion?
- What is your memory of serving communion as a LEM for the first time?

**Application for a License and Documentation**
1. The applicant should send Eucharistic Visitor application to the Bishop’s office, P. O. Box 689, Salinas, CA 93902.
2. The rector/vicar will maintain confidential personnel files for the Eucharistic Visitor which shall contain the following:
   - Documentation of training and competency in the areas listed above in “Policy”
   - A copy of the application sent to the bishop’s office.
   - A copy of the certificate from the bishop licensing the person to be a Eucharistic Visitor.
To Bishop Mary Gray-Reeves:

As a member of the clergy or other leader exercising oversight for Eucharistic Visitation at ___________________________________________________________________________, I am requesting license for _______________________________________________________________

Full Name

to serve as a Eucharistic Visitor for this congregation.

I hereby certify that this applicant is baptized, is confirmed or received, and is an adult communicant in good standing. This candidate has been appropriately trained per diocesan policy, and is a fit and responsible person to be a licensed Eucharistic Visitor in this congregation.

Date Title Signature

Print Name

Licensee Address _______________________________________________________________

Licensee’s Email _______________________________________________________________

He/She attended the required training:

Eucharistic Visitor _______________________________________________________________

Location Date

Trainer Signature

Safeguarding God’s People ________________________________________________________

Location Date

Diversity Training _______________________________________________________________

Location Date

and will exhibit competency during three observed Eucharistic visits.

Send this form to:
The Rt. Rev. Mary Gray-Reeves
Episcopal Diocese of El Camino Real
POB 689, Salinas, CA 93902