

Lay Preaching Mentor Overview

The Episcopal Diocese of Ohio

Thank you for considering or agreeing to be a mentor to a Lay Preacher. Mentors are particularly essential to our process for quality lay preaching in our diocese. Some dioceses require several years of theological and homiletical training before granting a lay person a license to preach publicly. That is their way of ensuring well-grounded theology from them when they preach.

We take the opposite approach. Our process brings them on board in a two-day Lay Preaching College and a subsequent experiential preaching experience with feedback. After the College, applicants submit that sermon to the College. It is blind-read by at least one person, written feedback is given, and the person is notified if they will be granted a license, or if there is additional work to be done. Depending upon the circumstance, some people may be told they will need to repeat the process to apply again if they are interested.

For those who receive a license, we then require annual in-person Continuing Education training. We offer a minimum of four such opportunities over the course of each year. We also offer to reimburse any licensed Lay Preacher 50% of the tuition for EfM. We donate to and encourage all Lay Preachers to use www.workingpreacher.org.

And most importantly, we require each Lay Preacher to have an ongoing relationship with a qualified mentor, usually their own parish priest.

As a Lay Preaching Mentor, your primary role is to establish a relationship with the Lay Preacher in which the two of you are able to openly discuss the preacher's theology and technique. You and your Lay Preacher are free to develop whatever kind of relationship seems best to accomplish that. Obviously some preachers will need a different type and amount of input from their mentor than others.

The minimum expectation for a Lay Preacher is that they preach in their own parish at least twice a year. If a person is only preaching occasionally like that, you may want to read their sermons in advance and offer feedback accordingly. You can of course ask that same thing of any preacher.

We ask you to meet with the person at least twice per year (although most meet more often) and that you send The Rev. Brad Purdom, Canon for Congregations, a brief online report, found on the Diocesan website, sometime during the fourth quarter of the year. This report and your feedback are necessary for their license to be renewed.

Please call or email Brad Purdom (bpurdom@dohio.org) anytime with questions or concerns. Thank you for helping us bring a variety of grounded and faithful voices to our pulpits.

Recommendation

If this person applies to attend the Lay Preaching College and seek a license, they will be asked to verify that you have read the following and agreed to give them your recommendation:

I recommend this person to attend the Episcopal Diocese of Ohio Lay Preaching College. I believe her/him to possess the theological and spiritual maturity, given an ongoing mentoring relationship with a

qualified mentor, to preach from the lectionary at public worship at her/his home parish. I understand that the minimum expectation for a Lay Preacher to preach is twice a year at public worship.