

Ministry Description – Parochial Lay Reader

Amended by St. Stephen's Parish Council September 10, 2018

Qualification, Knowledge, Attitudes

The quality desired in a Parochial Lay Reader is faith in Jesus Christ and some sensitivity to pastoral issues. He or she should be comfortable in talking about his or her faith and have a regular habit of prayer and should be interested in helping people grow in their faith.

To be appointed as a Parochial Lay Reader, he or she ought to have attended worship and parish activities regularly at St. Stephen's for at least one year.

Appointment

The Parochial Lay Reader is appointed in accordance with Canon I-4. To be appointed as a Parochial Lay Reader, the person must be confirmed and complete the course of study laid out by the Pastor. The Pastor and the Vestry appoint the Parochial Lay Reader annually.

If the person has not been confirmed or completed the course of study, he or she may be appointed as a Lay Reader-in-Training.

The Parochial Lay Reader is, by parish custom, a member of the Liturgy Committee.

Responsibility

The ministry of the Parochial Lay Reader is to lead worship and preach. As a preacher, the ministries of teaching and leadership are part of the ministry of a Parochial Lay Reader.

The Parochial Lay Reader is expected to have a grasp of the spiritual issues in the parish and work towards affirming the strengths and strengthening where weak. To this end the Lay Reader needs to attend worship and parish activities on a regular basis and develop friendships with parishioners. He or she ought also to participate in parish studies.

The Parochial Lay Reader is expected to develop his/her habits of prayer, Bible reading and study.

Specific Duties

The duties are:

- a. preach and officiate as scheduled to a standard acceptable to the congregation and the Pastor:
 - at least once a year, officiate and preach in the presence of the Pastor;
- b. function as a reader, prayers of the people, and Eucharistic Assistant as scheduled by the Reader Co-ordinator;
- c. frequently attend the Liturgy Committee; and
- d. in negotiation with the Pastor, assist with Baptism, Confirmation Preparation, and small group studies.

Supervision/Accountability

The Parochial Lay Reader is accountable to and supervised by the Pastor. Through the year meetings will be scheduled with the Pastor and possibly other Lay Readers for training, administration, and supervision.

The Church Wardens, Liturgy Committee and Parish Council may also advise the Parochial Lay Reader on the conduct of his/her ministry.

The Parochial Lay Reader is subject to the General Synod Canon on Discipline.