

Licensed Lay Ministry Ordinance 2005

^{17/2005}
An Ordinance to provide for the licensing, appointment and ministry of Licensed Lay Ministers throughout the Diocese of Grafton.

PREAMBLE

RECOGNISING that Jesus 'came not to be served, but to serve....' [Matthew 20:28] and called his disciples 'to wash one another's feet' [John 13:14];

AND RECOGNISING that ministry is of the essence of the life of the whole body of Christ;

AND RECOGNISING by virtue of baptism, those baptised are called to minister the Gospel of Christ in the Church and in the world;

AND RECOGNISING that the Authorised Lay Ministry Canon of General Synod 1992 was adopted by this Diocese in 1993;

AND WHEREAS some are called to a public and representative lay ministry within and on behalf of the Church as Licensed Lay Ministers;

AND WHEREAS it is recognised that Licensed Lay Ministers are part of the Parochial leadership teams;

AND WHEREAS it is right and proper for the sake of decency and good order within this Diocese to make provision for the appointment, licensing, function and duties of Licensed Lay Ministers;

AND WHEREAS it is desirable that The Readers' Association Ordinance 1988 be repealed;

THEREFORE the Bishop, the Clergy and the Laity of the Diocese of Grafton in Synod assembled declare ordain and enact as follows:

SHORT TITLE

1. This Ordinance may be cited as the *Licensed Lay Ministers Ordinance 2005*

LICENSED LAY MINISTERS

2. Licensed Lay Ministers will exercise throughout the Diocese a ministry of service and encouragement by Word, Sacrament and Pastoral support.
 - (a) The Bishop may license suitably qualified laypersons to be Licensed Lay Ministers in either of two Categories defined by Section 8 of this Ordinance;
 - (b) The Bishop's licence shall indicate for which of the two Categories the holder is licensed;
 - (c) The Bishop will prescribe from time to time the minimum standards required of any person proposed to be licensed as a Licensed Lay Minister within a certain Category;
 - (d) Lay Ministry will ordinarily be exercised in a Parish context, but may with the consent of the Bishop, be exercised in any Diocesan ministry setting and situation.

QUALIFICATIONS

3. A Licensed Lay Minister must:
- (a) show evidence of Christian maturity and loyalty; and
 - (b) be a regular communicant member of the Anglican Church; and
 - (c) have demonstrated leadership qualities within the Church; and
 - (d) have completed, or embarked upon a course of theological study approved by the Bishop; and
 - (e) have demonstrated the physical and mental capacity to minister.

NOMINATION

4. Any layperson may be nominated as a Licensed Lay Minister to the Bishop by the Parish Priest.
- (a) Such nomination must have the endorsement of the Churchwardens and Parish Council and shall be in such form as the Bishop may from time to time prescribe.
 - (b) Notice of any nomination is to be brought to the attention of the relevant Parish community and any objections that may be made to the nomination shall be considered by the Parish Priest and Churchwardens and reported to the Bishop with their comments thereon.

APPOINTMENT AND REVOCATION

5. The Bishop will consider nominations and any further reports or comments put before him and determine whether to issue a licence to a layperson as a Licensed Lay Minister and what, if any, conditions might be placed upon the licence.
- (a) The Bishop may at any time revoke the licence of a Licensed Lay Minister.
 - (b) A Licensed Lay Minister's licence shall be in force until such time as one or more of the following events occur:
 - (i) Revocation of the licence by the Bishop
 - (ii) The last day of the first session of the next Synod
 - (iii) The appointment of a new Parish Priest
 - (iv) The movement of the Licensed Lay Minister to another Parish in the Diocese
 - (c) On the occurrence of one or more of the events described in 5(b)(ii) and (iii) application may be made in writing by the Parish Priest to the Bishop for renewal of the Licensed Lay Minister's Licence.

ADMISSION TO OFFICE

6. Licensed Lay Ministers shall be admitted to office and presented with their licence during Divine Service by the Bishop, Parish Priest or other person acting with permission and authority from the Bishop.

FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES

7. A Licensed Lay Minister may officiate at the request of the Parish Priest of the Parish within which they have been licensed.

8. The licence for a Licensed Lay Minister shall state which of the following Categories the holder is licensed for:

(a) Category 1:

A Category 1 Licensed Lay Minister may exercise, according to his or her Christian gifts, any of the following ministries:

- (i) Lead and conduct services except those parts which may be offered by a Deacon if present, or are designated to a priest.
- (ii) Assist the priest in the ministrations and distribution of the Holy Communion.
- (iii) Baptise only in cases of extreme emergency in the absence of a priest or deacon. Such baptisms to be reported to the Parish Priest.

(b) Category 2:

As well as exercising any of the above ministries, a Category 2 Licensed Lay Minister may exercise one or more of the following ministries:

- (i) Preach sermons, subject to appropriate qualification approved by the Bishop.
- (ii) Conduct funerals under the direction of the Parish Priest or in the absence of a priest or deacon.
- (iii) Enable sacramental needs to be provided for, under the direction of the Bishop.

9. A Licensed Lay Minister may exercise any duty or function of a pastoral nature as shall be considered appropriate by the Parish Priest.

10. It is required that each Licensed Lay Minister will attend training and formation annually.

ROBING

11. Licensed Lay Ministers are required to wear an alb and the diocesan cross; or cassock and surplice unless otherwise requested by the Parish Priest on specific occasions. Category 2 Licensed Lay Ministers are also permitted to wear a blue preaching scarf at ministrations in church, crematorium or burial ground, unless otherwise requested by the Parish Priest.

CO-ORDINATION

12. The Bishop shall appoint a Licensed Lay Ministers' Development Officer who, in consultation with a Licensed Lay Ministers' Representative Group, will plan and co-ordinate the formation and studies of all Licensed Lay Ministers within the Diocese.

EXPENSES

13. Any reasonable expenses for travelling or otherwise incurred by a Licensed Lay Minister, for which prior authorisation has been obtained, shall be the responsibility of the relevant Parish and shall be paid to the Licensed Lay Minister direct.

REGULATIONS

14. The Bishop-in-Council may make such Regulations as it deems necessary, not inconsistent with this Ordinance, so as to give effect to this Ordinance.

REPEAL


15. The Readers' Association Ordinance 1988 is hereby repealed.

DATE OF COMMENCEMENT

16. This Ordinance shall come into effect upon receiving the assent of the Bishop.

ASSENT

I hereby certify that the Ordinance as printed is in accordance with the Ordinance as passed.


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Chairman of Committees

I certify that this Ordinance was passed by Synod on the twenty ninth day of May, 2005.


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Registrar

I assent to this Ordinance.


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Bishop.