

FAQ for Lay Ministry Program

How much does the program cost?

That is up to your diocese but the hope is that there will be no cost to you.

How do I apply to the program?

You should begin the conversation by speaking to your Rector and then from there arranging a conversation with your bishop about the path forward.

Are there any educational requirements?

This program has no educational prerequisites other than those already in place for Licensed Lay Ministers in your diocese.

How do I register for the modules?

Once you have discussed your enrolment with your bishop, your name, email, and list of modules that you must finish will be sent to Queen's College. You will then receive an invitation email from the Canvas platform to create an account. Once that is done you can begin with Module 1.

What is the format of the program?

The program is an online platform called Canvas. It is asynchronous, meaning that you can work at your own pace.

Will I have to write papers or submit assignments?

There are no papers or other written assignments that will be graded. For each module there is a journal reflection that must be submitted but that is really for your own growth and formation. For modules that have a practical focus you will be expected to complete a short practicum, meaning that you will need to be observed doing what is covered in that module. This might mean leading Sunday services, doing a home visit, or preaching, etc.

Are there real-time, in person classes?

There are no classes but the program is designed to include group discussion based on short videos and assigned readings.

Are there supports in place to aid as I study?

You are not expected to do this program on your own. Where possible your diocese may group you with others to form a cohort so that you can watch the videos and discuss readings in community. Where a cohort is not possible you will be assigned a clergy mentor, most likely your rector or other local clergy. Where there are no clergy, 1-3 local members of your parish/congregations will act as lay companions to read, watch, and discuss course materials along with you.

I'm not very good with technology. Will there be tech support?

Queen's College will provide tech support. For assistance, please contact Rev. Robert Cooke at 709-753-0116 or robertcooke@queenscollegenl.ca.

How long is the program?

There is no set start or end dates for the program. You start whenever you're ready and work at your own pace until the assigned modules are complete.

How do I obtain the textbook? How much does it cost?

The textbook is Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe, eds. *To Love & Serve: Anglican Beliefs and Practices* (Cincinnati, OH: Forward Movement, 2022). Please consult with your diocese about how to obtain this book.

Why do I need to do this program?

With the changing dynamics of parish ministry and the challenges of maintaining traditional models of ministry, lay lead ministry is becoming increasingly important to ensure that necessary ministry still gets done. That means that those engaged in Licensed Lay Ministry need to be equipped with the appropriate knowledge and practical skills to be able to carry out those ministries. This LLM program aims to provide that knowledge and provide an opportunity to put those skills into practice in a safe, nurturing environment.

I'm already doing ministry in my parish community. What is the difference between lay ministry and Licensed Lay Ministry?

Ministry is the responsibility of all baptized Christians. As disciples of Christ, we are called to model a life of prayer, worship, service and care. All Christians are called to bear witness to the good news of God's love in Jesus Christ through words, actions, and prayerful presence in the world. There are some, though, who are called to a particular ministry within their local church or diocese. This ministry requires a special licence from your bishop to empower you to do that ministry. This might be the ministry of leading worship, pastoral visiting, lay preaching, or eucharistic ministry. Important requirements for that license are appropriate discernment, training, and preparation. Your bishop, rector, and local faith community help you discern whether you are called to licensed lay ministry. The completion of this program will help you gain the knowledge and practical skills that you will need to carry out your particular ministry.