

AUTHORISED LAY MINISTRY CANON 1992

Canon 17, 1992

A canon concerning authorised lay ministry.

Whereas ministry is of the essence of the life of the whole body of Christ:

and whereas all baptised persons are called to minister in the Church and in the world:

and whereas certain persons are called to a public and representative lay ministry within and on behalf of this Church:

and whereas it is desirable for the sake of decency and good order within this Church to recognise and regulate certain of those public and representative ministries:

now therefore the General Synod prescribes as follows:

Short title

1. This canon may be cited as the Authorised Lay Ministry Canon 1992.

Definition

2. In this canon, "**lay ministry**" means a lay ministry referred to in section 3 but does not include any function required by the discipline or doctrine of this Church to be exercised or performed only by a deacon, priest or bishop.

Authority

3. (1) A lay person who is a communicant member of this Church may be authorised by the bishop of a diocese to exercise within and for this Church in that diocese one or more of the following lay ministries:
 - (a) the reading and conduct of authorised services of this Church;
 - (b) the preaching of sermons;
 - (c) assistance to the priest in the ministration and distribution of the Holy Communion;
 - (d) any other lay ministry declared by the bishop of the diocese to be an authorised lay ministry for the purposes of this canon.
- (2) An authority under sub-section (1) may be limited by reference to all or any of the following:
 - (a) the nature of the functions authorised to be performed;

- (b) the person or persons at whose request or by whose authority the functions may be performed;
- (c) the place at which and the period during which the functions may be performed.

(3) The bishop of a diocese may revoke an authority given under this section.

Diocesan bishop may prescribe certain rules

4. Except as otherwise provided by the synod of the diocese, the bishop of a diocese may prescribe -
- (a) the qualifications of persons who may be authorised to exercise a particular lay ministry;
 - (b) the procedure for authorising persons to exercise a particular lay ministry;
 - (c) the form of an authority to exercise a particular lay ministry;
 - (d) the duties and functions which may be performed under an authority to exercise a particular lay ministry.
 - (e) the manner in which the duties and functions of a particular lay ministry are to be performed; and
 - (f) the vesture to be worn by persons performing any particular function in accordance with an authority to exercise a particular lay ministry.

Authority of bishop

5. The provisions of this canon shall not operate to restrict any authority of the bishop or synod of a diocese or to preclude any practice in a diocese relating to a particular lay ministry.

Repeal

6. The Lay Assistants at Holy Communion Canon 1973 ceases to have effect in a diocese that adopts this canon by ordinance of the synod of the diocese.

Coming into force by adoption

7. The provisions of this canon affect the order and good government of this Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in a diocese unless and until the diocese, by ordinance, adopts it.
