

**CANON 12**  
**LAY READERS**

**1. Order**

The order of Lay Readers shall comprise qualified lay persons licensed by the Bishop.

**2. Qualifications**

- 1) A Lay Reader shall be a member in full communion of the Anglican Church of Canada, of at least one year's standing, a regular Communicant and of the full age of 18 years and not in Holy Orders.
- 2) No one shall be presented to the Bishop to be licensed as a Lay Reader unless recommended by the Incumbent and Churchwardens, with the concurrence of the Parish Advisory Board.
- 3) Before new Lay Readers are licensed by the Bishop, they shall have completed a course of study approved by the Incumbent and the Bishop.

**3. Licenses and Admission**

- 1) The License of a Lay Reader shall remain in force at the pleasure of the Bishop, and will automatically expire upon the assumption of office by a new Incumbent of the parish. The Licence may be renewed by the Bishop at the request of the new Incumbent and Churchwardens, with the concurrence of the Parish Advisory Board.
- 2) A Lay Reader shall be admitted to the Order by the Bishop, or some other cleric appointed by the Bishop.

**4. Duties**

- 1) The duties of the Lay Reader at the invitation of the Incumbent, shall be to officiate at, or assist in those parts of Divine Service not required to be performed by a cleric, and to perform such other duties as may be requested.
- 2) An additional Episcopal Letter of Permission is required from the Bishop for any Lay person assisting the Incumbent with the administration of the Eucharist.
- 3) Lay Readers shall perform their duties and services in the parish of which they are members, and may perform such duties elsewhere only with the approval of their own Incumbent.