



The Episcopal Church in Delaware

Questions and Answers about
Lay Worship Leader and Lay Preacher Licensing

The Stevenson School for Ministry

What is The Stevenson School for Ministry?

- *The Bishop Dean Stevenson School for Ministry is based in the Episcopal Diocese of Central Pennsylvania and was created for lifelong learning and discernment processes for Episcopalians anywhere.*
- *“The school seeks to make theological education available and accessible to all because it believed it to be essential to furthering the mission and ministry of the Church.”*
- *The programs include training for lay worship leaders, lay preachers, preparation for the diaconate and the priesthood, and includes classes in Anglican studies and continuing education.*
- *The courses are all online, so anyone with an internet connection can participate.*

[Stevenson School for Ministry \(diocesecpa.org\)](http://diocesecpa.org)

How do I register to participate in the training?

Complete the online enrollment form at DEMinistry.Church. Along with the registration form you will find information for a written endorsement from the vestry and priest serving your community. This endorsement is necessary if you want to be licensed for these ministries by the bishop, as well as for receiving scholarship assistance from your parish and diocese.

How do I apply to The Stevenson School for Ministry?

Once the director for discipleship has received your registration and paperwork, as well as your payment, we will send your name to the registrar at the SSFM and you will be enrolled in the class.

How much does it cost?

The cost for the program is \$300 per course and a \$75 technology fee per term. The Episcopal Church in Delaware is committing to cover the cost of the technology fee and 1/3 of the cost of the class (\$100). You and your parish will contribute the other 2/3 of the cost. (parish 1/3, and student 1/3).

Where and how do I pay for the courses?

Please send a check payable to Diocesan Council, Inc., Attention Finance, 913 Wilson Road, Wilmington, DE 19803. In the check memo, please put your name.

What courses do I have to take?

Licensed lay worship leaders must complete three courses (Hebrew Scriptures, Christian Scriptures, and Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer).

Licensed lay preachers must complete four courses (Hebrew Scriptures, Christian Scriptures, Introduction to the Book of Common Prayer, and Homiletics I).

To be licensed, you must complete Safe Church and Unconscious Bias training provided by the diocese.

Where do I find the schedule of classes?

The schedule of classes can be found on The Stevenson School for Ministry's website, [Stevenson School for Ministry \(diocesecpa.org\)](https://www.stevenson.org)

How is the academic year structured? Can I enter a class at any time?

No. It is necessary to begin the class when it is scheduled. There are four ten-week terms (fall, winter, spring, and summer).

When does the class meet?

All synchronous classes meet once a week for one hour on Zoom. See the schedule on the website, <https://delaware.church/>

Can I audit a course?

To be licensed you must take the course for a letter grade or for pass/fail. You may audit a course for the cost of \$75, however, this will not count toward the licensed ministry.

What is the quarterly enrichment program? Do I have to participate?

The quarterly enrichment program is for support, the practice of skills, continuing education, and continued spiritual development. A mentor will meet with a cohort of lay ministers quarterly. The expectation is for those being licensed to participate in this cohort.

What if I discern a call to another ministry role such as the diaconate, do the classes count towards further study?

The great thing about the SSFM is that the courses you take for licensed worship leader or preacher will count towards further education if you discern a call to the diaconate or priesthood. You will not have to start over.

I have been a worship leader for years, why do I have to register for these classes?

The Episcopal Church in Delaware seeks to support and empower the ministry of all the baptized. We believe that additional knowledge and training will strengthen our service and enrich our community's worship experience.

My license expires at the end of this year, can I be licensed without taking the courses?

If your license expires in 2023, you can apply to be relicensed, however for your license to continue you need to register for the Stevenson School for Ministry by the summer/fall semester, depending on the availability of required courses. If you fail to register, your license will expire by the end of the year. If your license expires in 2024, please plan to register for a class by the fall of semester of 2024 in order for your licensed to be renewed.

If your license expires in 2025, please begin planning now so that you may complete the program by the time your license expires.

If I have alternative training and education in the field of licensure, do I still have to complete the program from the Stevenson School for ministry?

If you have alternative educational training, it will be up to the discretion of the bishop who will consider each license on a case-to-case basis.

If I don't take the training for lay worship leader through the Stevenson School for Ministry, can I still serve as a eucharistic minister or eucharistic visitor?

Yes, absolutely. You may still serve as a lay eucharistic minister or lay eucharistic visitor, or other ministries if you are not licensed for the lay worship leader or lay preacher program at the Stevenson School for Ministry. The education for these licenses are conducted locally at the parish level.

If I still have questions, whom do I contact?

For additional information please contact,

*The Episcopal Church in Delaware
Attention: The Rev. Marianne Ell
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