



The Episcopal Church in Delaware

Frequently Asked Questions about Lay Worship Leader and Lay Preacher Licensing

The Stevenson School for Ministry

What is The Stevenson School for Ministry (SSFM)?

- *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 for lay worship leader and lay preacher?

Complete the online enrollment form at, [here](#). 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 registrar has received your registration, endorsement and payment, you may register for one of the required courses at Stevenson School for Ministry. You will then receive correspondence from SSFM regarding your enrollment.

How much does it cost?

The cost for the program is \$400 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. The student will pay \$140, the parish \$140 and the Diocese will cover the other 1/3 plus the technology fee.

Where and how do I pay for the courses?

In 2025 we changed our payment method for the classes.

You will pay Stevenson School for Ministry directly for your share of the cost (\$140) and your churches share (\$140). You may pay online directly to them or send a check to the Diocese of Central

Pennsylvania, Stevenson School for Ministry, 101 Pine Street Harrisburg, PA 17101. In the Memo write SSFM//Your Name. You will be invoiced from Stevenson School for Ministry for \$280 after the second week of class. It is your responsibility to be reimbursed by your church or to have them send a check to SSFM at the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania.

Stevenson School for Ministry will invoice the Diocese for \$195 which is our share included the tech fee.

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 \(diocesecpa.org\)](http://StevensonSchoolforMinistry(diocesecpa.org))

How is the academic year structured?

The courses are 14 weeks in a semester format, with an additional summer term.

Can I enter a class at any time?

No. It is necessary to begin the class when it is scheduled.

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/>. If for some reason you are unable to attend class, it is recorded so that you may catch up on what you missed.

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. Lay preachers will also have a cohort for continued training which is part of the expectation for licensing.

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

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 at the end of the year, you must apply for the Stevenson School for Ministry by the fall semester in order for your license to continue. If you fail to register, your license will expire by the end of the year.

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.

Can I serve as eucharistic minister, eucharistic visitor, or reader if I don't take this program?

The education for these licenses are conducted locally at the parish level.

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.

Can I take additional classes at Stevenson School for Ministry besides the required ones for lay worship leaders and lay preachers? *Yes, however, they will be at your own expense, and you can pay the Stevensons School for Ministry directly. The Episcopal Church in Delaware will not cover the costs of additional courses other than the required courses (Hebrew Scriptures, New Testament, Prayer Book Studies, and Homiletics 1).*

If I still have questions, whom do I contact?

*The Episcopal Church in Delaware
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