



# The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh

## Lay Ministry Program Process & Scholarship Application Form

The Diocesan Lay Ministry Program (DLMP) of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh was established in 2023, in partnership with the Stevenson School of Ministry. According to Title III, Canon.4. of the Episcopal Church in the United States of America, bishops can license lay members to serve as ministers of the church as Lay Preachers and Lay Worship Leaders. The DLMP will follow all the guidelines set out in the Canons and Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh protocols.

### Overview

The purpose of this section is to provide a general overview of the Lay Ministry Program and offer specific guidance to parishes.

Lay leadership, in tandem with clergy leadership, is an integral part of our worship life as Episcopalian Christians. What's more, ongoing formation in leading worship and/or preaching deepens our understanding and enriches us as faith leaders and congregations.

The Diocese is now participating in two new certification programs for Lay Preachers and Worship Leaders, which are being offered by the Stevenson School for Ministry. In collaboration with the Commission on Ministry, the Diocese is adopting these as a part of an overall, developing diocesan process of formation for lay preaching and worship leading.

Lay members of congregations should approach their clergy if they feel called to ministry as a lay preacher and/or lay worship leader and are interested in certifications in either of these programs. It is the responsibility of the parish clergy to help the lay member discern their calling and ensure that the lay member understands the requirements of the program and licensure.

### Lay Ministry Program Funding Model

The Diocese will fund tuition for Stevenson School of Ministry required courses for each certificate program. Students must first be approved by the Diocese for the program (see Lay Ministry Program Application Process section below).

The funding for technology fees and books/class materials will be provided by the sponsoring parish and/or the student. If funds are not available, the student may apply for a scholarship (see page 2 of this document).

### Lay Ministry Program Application Process

1. The sponsoring clergy should write a letter of support for the student and submit to Andrea Rath ([arath@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:arath@episcopalpgh.org)) at the Diocese.
  - a. The student and the sponsoring clergy will receive an email from the Diocese noting acceptance of the student into the Diocesan Lay Ministry Program.
2. Upon acceptance into the Diocesan program, the student should apply to the certificate program through the Stevenson School of Ministry ([Application](#)).
  - a. Upon acceptance into the Stevenson School of Ministry program, the student will receive notification directly from the Stevenson School of Ministry.

### Final Step

After graduation from the Stevenson School of Ministry, the sponsoring clergy should complete the Application of Licensed Ministries ([Application](#)) and submit it to Andrea Rath ([arath@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:arath@episcopalpgh.org)) at the Diocese.

**LAY MINISTRY SCHOLARSHIP FORM  
PLEASE PRINT**

Applicant Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Permanent address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Complete this section if you are requesting a scholarship to help defray the cost of books/class materials and/or technology fees.**

Program: Choose an item.

Term: Choose an item.      Class: \_\_\_\_\_      Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Expected expenses:	Expected assistance:
Books/Class Materials: _____	Sponsoring parish: _____
Technology Fee: _____	Other: _____

Requested Scholarship Assistance from Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Explain any extraordinary circumstances that are relevant to your request.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

If funds are for technology fees, the Diocese will pay the technology fee directly to The Stevenson School of Ministry.

If funds are for books/class materials, please submit receipts along with this form and the Diocese will reimburse you.

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**All applicants should sign below.**

I certify that the information given in this application is true and accurate. I further certify that if, for any reason after receiving a scholarship, I elect to substantially alter my proposed study plan, I will immediately inform the diocese.

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Date*

**Return via email to [arath@episcopalpgh.org](mailto:arath@episcopalpgh.org)**