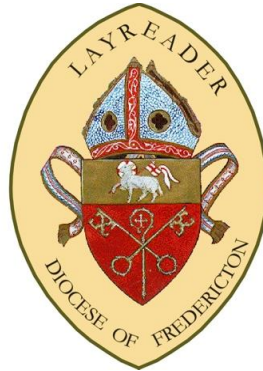


Layreader Update 2016

For Clergy and Layreaders



The Anglican Diocese of Fredericton

Layreader Website

<http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/layreaders/>

Clergy Resources Website

<http://anglican.nb.ca/programs/layreaders/>

May 14, 2016

Issue 1

WORKING TOGETHER TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Table of Contents

Message from Bishop David Edwards	3
Message from the Warden of Layreaders	4
Team Ministry	4
Layreader Definitions	4
Layreader-in-Training	5
Parochial Layreader	5
Diocesan layreader	5
Frequently Asked Questions	6
Layreader Documents	7
Layreader Self-Assessment	7
Layreader Event Record	7
Clergy Documents	7
Layreader Covenant	7
Application Forms and Other Documents	8
Archdeaconry Warden of Layreaders	8
Course Work at a Glance	8
Core Foundational Courses	8
Continuing Education Courses	9
Course Materials	9
Program or Course Attendance	9
Program or Course Availability	9
Frequently Asked Questions	10
Contact Information	11





Message from Bishop David Edwards

Layreaders in the Diocese of Fredericton are called to an important and vital part of the ministry of the church. They actively participate in our liturgical and pastoral work and the mission of God in the world.

Currently layreaders are licensed by the Bishop to serve in a parish under the direction and supervision of the incumbent with licences renewed annually. In a parish that is without an incumbent, the archdeacon is responsible for layreader issues.

The main purpose of layreaders as worship leaders is to set a tone of grace - and by their leadership support the congregation's worship and the ministry of the incumbent. It is an opportunity to serve the church, connect the worship experience to each other, and experience spiritual growth. As such, everyone in ministry owes it to God, each other, and ourselves to take the responsibility seriously, prepare well, and minister boldly.

The duties of a layreader will vary according to parish needs. Typically, they perform such functions as reading lessons, leading the prayers of the people, sharing leadership, and planning for public worship services. When appropriately trained, layreaders may be called upon for more extensive ministry, preparing and officiating services of Morning and Evening Prayer in their own parish, or in another parish, including giving a homily or sermon. They may take on leadership roles in parish events, committees, training sessions or taking home Communion to the sick or shut-ins with Episcopal permission.

In order to begin a layreader-in-training period, you as a potential candidate, may be approached by your parish priest, or you may approach him or her. They will meet with you to discuss your call to the layreader ministry. An application is then completed and sent to the Warden of Layreaders who reviews and forwards the request to the Bishop. The parochial ministry of a layreader is supervised by the incumbent with accountability to the bishop and the warden of layreaders. Layreaders are expected to follow a pattern of daily prayer and ongoing study, and to attend deanery and diocesan educational events each year.

That said, we are embarking on a new form of layreader training which will encourage spiritual growth in ministry, recognizing individual gifts and using them to carry on Christ's work in the world. This formation training will assist layreaders in taking their place in the life, worship and mission of the church. New layreaders and current parochial layreaders are encouraged to participate in all training opportunities as the program is developed over time. The intent is for all layreaders-in-training to become licensed layreaders. Current diocesan layreaders are also encouraged to participate in upcoming programs as a form of continuing education and to support the layreaders-in-training. Continuing education courses will be developed in due course for all layreaders.

All courses and programs will be offered in multiple ways including parish, deanery and diocesan venues by face-to-face, video and online methods. It is an exciting time for layreaders. Please bear with us as we further develop training for this all-important ministry.

David



Message from the Warden of Layreaders

The purpose of this update is to provide an overview of the new layreader program. The information will give both layreader and clergy a snapshot of what has been developed to date. Updates will be provided on a regular basis. The time spent meeting clergy and layreaders across the diocese has been very rewarding. It has become clear that layreaders are considered valuable members of team ministry. Information has been gathered through many conversations as well as surveys and from other layreader programs across Canada and in England. It has been a wonderful experience and one that has provided a very rich foundation from which to grow. It was also a great pleasure to meet with The Rev. Canon James Irvine, known to many of you as the diocesan Warden of Layreaders for 25 years before his retirement.

The process of gathering information is ongoing. I hope to meet each person at some point in time as we move this valuable ministry forward.

Cleo Cyr

Team Ministry

Bishop David has provided a definition of team ministry that profoundly encourages each of us to be an active participant in the dynamic movement of building up our various ministries...together. He says..."Each parish functions as a unique unit but is also a significant partner within the greater dynamic...the Diocese. Team ministry is an opportunity to identify the spiritual gifts of each lay person and cleric, and to work together to the glory of God".

Layreader Definitions

A layreader is a layperson authorized by the bishop in the Diocese of Fredericton to officiate at services of worship or take a leadership role in certain parts of a service. Anglican layreaders are licensed by the bishop to a particular parish (parochial) or the diocese at large (diocesan) for a one-year term. Layreaders require annual renewal of licenses following review and recommendation by incumbent clergy. Layreader applications are available for clergy use on the diocesan website - clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>

Layreader-in-Training ~ A layreader-in-training is someone who, under the direction of parish, deanery or diocesan clergy, has completed a time of discernment and has been approved by both the incumbent and bishop to enter a layreader training program following an appropriate application process. The primary responsibility of a layreader-in-training is to be part of the ministry team and to undertake a flexible two-year training period to become a parochial or diocesan layreader. Layreader training will include learning to assist during services as directed by clergy and the completion of core foundational curriculum topics based on:

- Reading scripture & liturgy in public
- Anglican worship
- Biblical foundations
- Christian doctrine
- Church history
- Leadership
- Basic sermon preparation

A layreader-in-training will wear a layreader medallion with a light blue ribbon when vesting.

Parochial Layreader ~ A parochial layreader is licensed in a parish and has received certification by the bishop to offer layreader duties under the direction of parish clergy following an appropriate application and training process. Their role is primarily liturgical in nature. They have a responsibility to be an active member of the ministry team in their parish, assisting during services as directed by the incumbent. Examples include:

- reading scriptures,
- officiating services,
- administering the chalice,
- leading the prayers of the people, and
- taking home communion to sick and shut-ins

A parochial layreader will have completed the studies in reading scripture and liturgy in public, biblical foundations, Christian doctrine, church history, leadership and basic sermon preparation or equivalents. Continuing education is required.

A parochial layreader will wear a layreader medallion with a dark blue ribbon when vesting.

Diocesan Layreader ~ A diocesan layreader is licensed in the diocese by the bishop to offer layreader duties under the direction of the incumbent, the archdeacon or bishop following an appropriate application process. Their primary responsibility is to be an active member of the ministry team in their home parish and to support neighbouring parishes. A diocesan layreader will have completed the studies in reading scripture and liturgy in public, biblical foundations, Christian doctrine, church history, leadership, and advanced sermon preparation and preaching as well as a discernment course (or equivalents).

Upon completion of training and at the clergy/bishop's direction, the diocesan layreader may lead services, prepare and deliver the homily/sermon and travel to parishes/churches requiring assistance. Continuing education is required.

A diocesan layreader will wear a blue scarf with layreader crest when vesting. (See FAQs)



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I am 17 years old...can I become a layreader?

A. Yes. A congregation member can become a layreader at 16 years of age. To begin the process (at any age) discuss your desire with your incumbent and complete a self-assessment questionnaire. Once you and your incumbent have determined your call to a layreader ministry, he or she will complete an application form and submit it to the warden of layreaders who will review the application, then refer it on to the bishop. The bishop is the only person who can issue a layreader licence in the Diocese of Fredericton.

Q. I have been a parochial/ diocesan layreader for many years. Do I have to take these courses?

A. The short answer is no. However, the layreader courses can be considered as both core foundational courses for layreaders-in-training and continuing education courses for people who are current layreaders. Current licensed layreaders are **strongly encouraged** to participate in the courses for two reasons. The first reason is that new information will be provided. The second reason is that as a current layreader you have a wealth of knowledge that puts you in the enviable position of being a wonderful mentor to new layreaders. Complete the new self-assessment form to help you determine your needs.

Q. I don't have a layreader medallion. How do I obtain one?

A. Discuss the need for layreader medallions and scarves with your incumbent. Medallions and scarves can be purchased by contacting Cheryl Jacobs at Synod office (506) 459-1801 or cjacobs@diofton.ca.

- Light blue or dark blue ribbon \$2.00
- Layreader medallion with ribbon \$23.00
- Diocesan layreader scarf: \$40.00

Q. I am a diocesan layreader and have a dark blue (or purple ribbon) and medallion. Do I have to wear a blue scarf?

A. If you are a current layreader, no you do not need to have a scarf, and may continue to wear your medallion. If you do purchase a scarf please do not wear both the medallion and scarf at the same time. Your medallion may also be passed on to another layreader or returned to Cheryl. All newly licensed diocesan layreaders are to wear the blue layreader scarf.

Layreader Documents

Layreader Self-Assessment

One of the interesting comments that came from talking to so many people was the idea of learning what layreaders think about their ministry. The purpose of the self-assessment document is to help you, and the clergy who support you, gain a better understanding of your needs and desires as a layreader in the Diocese of Fredericton.

All current layreaders and those entering the layreader-in-training period should complete a layreader self-assessment and keep it as part of their layreader documentation. The self-assessment can be used as a resource when reviewing your layreader ministry goals with the clergy responsible for renewing your yearly licence. The layreader self-assessment form can be obtained by contacting the warden of layreaders or found on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/> under Resources.

Layreader Event Record

The layreader event record is a user-friendly way of keeping track of training events or spiritual growth events that layreaders attend. The event record can be completed online and saved or printed as a paper copy. It can be found on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/> under Resources.

Clergy Documents

Layreader Covenant

A covenant is a 'working agreement' outlining areas of responsibility between the layreader-in-training, the parochial layreader, or the diocesan layreader and the incumbent. It reflects the understanding of duties, roles, responsibilities and expectations in the areas of liturgy, ministry in the parish and diocese, and participation in layreader training events.

This covenant will be in effect for two years or when a layreader-in-training completes training and becomes a layreader (parochial or diocesan), in which case a new covenant is signed. It should also be reviewed and revised according to the direction layreader ministry is evolving within the parish. The covenant will be signed by both the Incumbent and layreader.

Copies of the Layreader Covenant can be found on the diocesan website under the clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Layreader Application Forms; Covenant; Event Tracking Records; Self Assessment and Training Attendance Forms

These documents are located on the diocesan website under the clergy resource area at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Archdeaconry Warden of Layreaders (ADWLs)



Bishop Edwards has asked each archdeaconry to identify individuals to act in a liaison capacity between the Warden of Layreaders and members of the archdeaconry while collaboratively disseminating and implementing the layreader training program. To date each archdeaconry has one or two people working together to fill this role. A list of ADWLs can be found at the end of this document.

Course Work at a Glance

Core Foundational Courses

Foundational courses are designed to provide layreaders with a basic understanding of scripture, liturgy, doctrine, history, leadership and preaching from which to build their layreader ministry.

For layreaders in-training core foundational courses to be completed include:

- Reading scripture & liturgy in public
- Anglican worship
- Biblical foundations
- Christian doctrine
- Church history
- Leadership
- Basic sermon preparation

To date three have been developed:

- Reading scripture & liturgy in public
- Biblical foundations
- Church doctrine

Parochial and diocesan layreaders are strongly encouraged to participate in the courses as they arise for two reasons. The first reason is that new information will be provided. Secondly, current layreaders have a wealth of knowledge that puts them in the enviable position of being wonderful mentors to new layreaders.

Continuing Education Courses

Continuing education courses will be introduced over time. Topics identified to date include increasing knowledge about spiritual discipline, discernment, pastoral care, youth and intergenerational ministries, evangelism, gospel culture, mission-shaped church, preaching and Safe Church. To date one continuing education course has been developed. It is titled 'S.H.A.P.E. - Your Shape for God's Service' and is a discernment course designed to help determine your spiritual gifts.

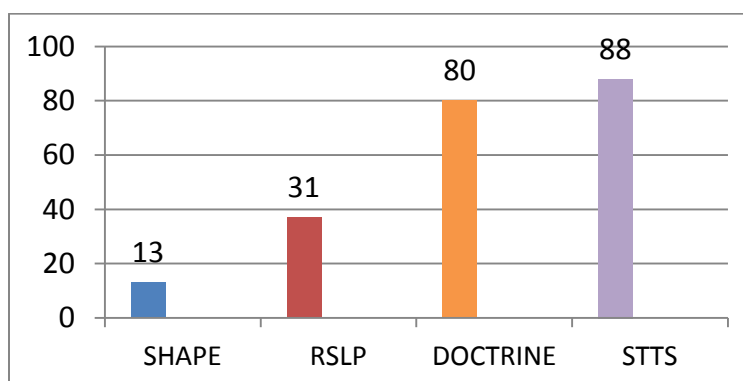
Course Materials

All core and continuing education course outline information is available on the layreader site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>. Facilitator toolkits as well as information to deliver courses is available on the clergy resource site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>.

Program or Course Attendance

It is the layreaders responsibility to keep track of courses taken using the *Layreader Training Event Record* as previously mentioned. However, it is the clergy and/or course facilitator's responsibility to submit attendance information to synod office where a record of attendance will be maintained for all core foundation and continuing education courses offered in the parish, deanery, or diocese.

To date 13 layreaders have attended the *S.H.A.P.E. discernment program*; 31 have attended the *Reading Scripture and Liturgy in Public* (RSLP) course; 80 have attended the sessions related to *Church Doctrine*; and 88 the *See Through the Scriptures* (STTS) workshop.



Program or Course Availability

All layreader programs or courses being offered will be advertised through:

- the Layreader Site at <http://anglican.nb.ca/>
- the Diocesan Event Calendar <http://anglican.nb.ca/>
- the Archdeaconry Warden(s) of Layreaders
- Diocesan eNews



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q. I don't have a computer and do not use the Internet. How will I know when courses are being offered?

A. The Archdeaconry Warden of Layreaders in your deanery will be aware of upcoming training events and will be communicating that information with clergy. It would also be helpful for you to ask a layreader in your parish who has access to the Internet to keep you informed.

Q. Will I be able to take courses in other parishes?

A. Yes, however, it would be best to contact the person giving the course to make sure there is room. There may on occasion be a course that has some limitations.

Q. If I miss a training event will it be offered again in my area or deanery?

A. Yes, it will be offered again as the need arises. We are also looking at the possibility of offering online training in the future.

For more information please do not hesitate to contact the Warden of Layreaders.

Cleo Cyr
Warden of Layreaders, Diocese of Fredericton
Cleocy1@gmail.com
(506) 847-0116 / 647-8170



Contact Information

THE RT. REV'D DAVID EDWARDS BISHOP OF FREDERICTON 115 CHURCH ST. FREDERICTON, NB E3B 4C8 dedwards@diofton.ca (506) 459-1801	CLEO CYR WARDEN OF LAYREADERS 28 AUTUMN AVE. QUISPAMIS, NB E2E 4R9 cleocyr1@gmail.com (506) 847-0116/(506) 647-8170
ARCHDEACONRY WARDEN OF LAYREADERS KINGSTON AND THE KENNEBECASIS ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. DAVID TURNER david.turner@anglican.nb.ca (506) 832-3375	ARCHDEACONRY WARDEN OF LAYREADERS WOODSTOCK ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. DEACON FRAN BEDELL fbedell12@twc.com (207) 728-3541
SAINT JOHN ARCHDEACONRY CORALIE LOSIER closier8807@rogers.com (506) 642-5937	CHATHAM ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. GORDON THOMPSON gordon.thompson@anglican.nb.ca (506) 773-7387
SAINT JOHN – CLERGY SUPPORT THE VEN. STUART ALLAN stuart.allan@anglican.nb.ca (506) 333-2825	CHATHAM ARCHDEACONRY GINA QUANN ginaguann@hotmail.com (506) 773-9609
ST. ANDREWS ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. MARY ANNE LANGMAID revma@nb.aibn.com (506) 755-3029	MONCTON ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. DR. DAN GOODWIN danielcorey.goodwin@gmail.com (506) 962-1448
ST. ANDREWS ARCHDEACONRY LINDA ELLIS linda@futurenets.net (506) 659-2587/754-2180	MONCTON ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. BRUCE GLENCROSS bruceglencross@hotmail.com (506) 785-9092
FREDERICTON ARCHDEACONRY THE REV. RICK ROBINSON robinsonbook@hotmail.com (506) 450-0110	