

Clergy-Supported Worship Leader Training Curriculum

The Episcopal Diocese of Central New York

Individuals licensed as Worship Leaders should be trained in the following areas:

1. Big Picture

- Why do we worship? Why do we worship in community?
- Prayerful preparation for leadership
- Style and delivery – physical, voice, movement in space
- Theology of welcoming – from how to handle people who walk in late and make noise, to why we give page numbers, to avoiding worship as an “inside secret” (e.g.: “the doxology isn’t in the bulletin because ‘everyone’ knows it”)
- Wait time – one of the hardest things to teach! How to make some space for silence, get a sense for whether people have found their page, let enough quiet into our lives

2. Nuts and Bolts

- Rubrics: what are they, how do we follow them
- Revised Common Lectionary, where to find RCL readings, where to find your parish’s inserts/Rite Stuff license, etc.
- Basic Intro to Morning Prayer, including the following:
 - no longer intended for Sunday worship as of 1979 prayer book
 - reasons why it is valuable as a Sunday morning service –
 - community gathering around prayer and Scripture as well as Eucharist
 - opportunity to hear different voices in leadership
 - chance to be creative, offer prayers from different sources
 - exposure to ancient tradition of Prayer of the Hours
- Pronunciation guide – where to look for help!
- copyright (in case of copies of music/prayers from non-BCP sources)

- Psalm leadership
- your parish custom/preference for whether and how to incorporate Peace, Offertory, Sermon in Morning Prayer
- how music will be planned and how it is included, how hymns are introduced

3. Practice

- Walk applicant through a service, including the bulletin as it will look when they lead MP
- Listen to applicant lead (at least part of) a service in the worship space, with microphone as appropriate