Diocese of Wyoming
Guidelines for Lectors and Worship Leaders

Note: Lectors do not have to be licensed.

Lector: A person who participates in worship services by reading one or more lessons appointed for the day.

Competencies:
• Demonstrates skill in public reading.
• Demonstrates understanding of the reading and does not stumble over unfamiliar words.

Worship Leader: A person called to a ministry of leading worship services of the church (Morning Prayer, ante-Communion, funerals, etc.), but not in charge of a congregation. Worship leaders are licensed by the bishop.

Competencies:
• Prepares and leads liturgies using the Book of Common Prayer and appropriate music resources (The Hymnal, 1982, Gather Comprehensive, etc.).
• Demonstrates a basic understanding of, and ability to use an authorized version of the Bible.

Suggestions
• Practice reading aloud with the use of a tape recorder and/or feedback from others.
• Participate in adult Christian education programs of the congregation.
• Join the congregation’s worship committee.
• Maintain a faith discipline (Praying the Offices, Bible reading, meditation, etc) of your choosing.

Recommended Reading List:
• The Bible
• The Book of Common Prayer
• The Hymnal
• The New Church’s Teaching Series
• The Lay Reader’s Guide

• The Church Year Guide
• Applicable Canons
• Commentary on the American Prayer Book—by Marion J. Hatchett

A Commissioning Service for Worship Leaders

The Examination

*The congregation being seated, the presider stands in full view of the people. The sponsors and candidates stand facing the presider.*

**Presider**

Brothers and Sisters in Christ Jesus, we are all baptized by the one Spirit into one Body, and given gifts for a variety of ministries for the common good. Our purpose is to commission these persons in the Name of God and of this congregation to the ministry of Worship Leader.

**The Presider asks the sponsor or sponsors**

*Are these persons you are to present prepared by a commitment to Christ as Lord, by regular attendance at worship, and by the knowledge of their duties, to exercise their ministry to the honor of God, and the well-being of God’s Church?*

**Sponsor**

I believe they are.

**Presider**

You have been called to a ministry of Worship Leader in this congregation. Will you, as long as you are engaged in this work, perform it with diligence?

**Candidate**

I will.

**Presider**

Will you faithfully and reverently execute the duties of Worship Leader to the honor of God, and the benefit of the members of this congregation?

**Candidate**

I will.

The Commissioning

**Sponsor**

I present to you *this person* licensed for ministry of Worship Leader in this diocese.

**Antiphon**

*There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all in everyone.*

V.

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly:

R.

*Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.*

Let us pray (*Silence*)

Look with favor upon those whom you have called, O Lord, to be Worship Leaders in your Church; and grant that they may be so filled with your Holy Spirit that, seeking your glory and the salvation of souls, they may minister your word with steadfast devotion, and by the constancy of their faith and the innocency of their lives may adorn in all things the doctrine of Christ our Savior; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

**Presider**

In the Name of God and of this congregation, I commission you [N.] as Licensed Worship Leader [and give you this _____________ as a token of your ministry].