

THE WORSHIP LEADERS AND LAY PREACHERS ACT 1995

WHEREAS the General Synod of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia at its ordinary Session in 1992 repealed Canon VIII Title G of Lay Readers and Kai-karakia with effect from the last day of the ordinary session of General Synod of 1994

AND WHEREAS it is desirable to allow for a diversity of worship leaders and licensed lay preachers to regulate the leadership of worship in Church by lay persons

AND WHEREAS such leadership is required to be under the authority of the Clergy of the parish who have a licence from the Bishop of the Diocese

BE IT ENACTED by the Bishop, Clergy and Laity of the Diocese of Nelson in Synod assembled and by authority of the same as follows:-

1. THE short title of this Act shall be "The Worship Leaders and Lay Preachers Act 1995".
2. THE "Conditions of Appointment" shall include provisions as to training by Bishopdale College and such other training as is expected to be undertaken by the appointee and that the position will be subject to such regular reviews by the Vicar and Vestry as is deemed appropriate

WORSHIP LEADERS

3. A WORSHIP Leader shall be baptised and a member of a Parish or District among whom the appointee is to serve and will be appointed by the Vicar or Priest-in-Charge after being approved by the Vestry of the Parish or District.

4. BEFORE an appointment of a Worship Leader is made, the Vicar or Priest-in-Charge and Vestry shall ensure that a "Job Description" and "Conditions of Appointment" are agreed between the Worship Leader and the Vicar and the Vestry.

LAY PREACHERS

5. A BAPTISED person who is a member of a Parish or District may be licensed by the Bishop to the office of Lay

Preacher to serve in the Parish, District or other Ministry of the Church.

6. ALL nominations for appointment to the office of Lay Preacher shall be in such form as shall be authorised by the Bishop of the Diocese. Nominations shall require the approval of the Vicar, Priest in Charge and Vestry of the District in which the nominee is to serve or such person having authority in a Diocesan Ministry.

7. BEFORE admitting a candidate to the office of Lay Preacher the Bishop shall be satisfied that the candidate has undertaken a course of training approved by the Committee for Ministry or is deemed to be otherwise adequately qualified.

8. EACH Lay Preacher shall be licensed by the Bishop of the Diocese.

9. THE licence of the Lay Preacher shall be in the form as set out in Schedule 1 of this Act and shall include the specific duties for which the licence has been issued. The licence shall be renewable by the Bishop every three years upon the recommendation of the Vicar or Priest-in- Charge of the District and with the approval of the Vestry.

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10. A LAY Preacher may perform any of the duties of the office in any other Parish, District or other Ministry unit of the Church if called upon to do so by the Vicar, Priest in Charge or such other person holding authority in such other Parish, District or Ministry unit.

11. LAY Preachers shall carry out their duties as the Bishop shall from time to time direct and may wear such robes as are approved by the Bishop. Lay Preachers may wear the pectoral cross authorised by the Bishops of the Dioceses in New Zealand.

12. A CHAPLAIN of Lay Preachers may be appointed by the Committee for Ministry to assist in the ongoing pastoral care of the Lay Preachers in the exercise of their ministry.

13 A REGISTER of Lay Preachers shall be kept by such a person or officer as appointed by the Committee for Ministry.

14 THE DUTIES that a Lay Preacher may undertake may from time to time be specified by the Bishop in consultation with the Committee for Ministry.

SCHEDULE I.

DIOCESE OF NELSON

LICENCE TO THE OFFICE OF LAY PREACHER

N., by the Grace of God BISHOP OF NELSON

TO OUR WELL BELOVED IN CHRIST,

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We, having received a Petition from the Vicar or Priest in Charge and Vestry of the Parish of and being assured of your faithfulness and moral and spiritual integrity, and having also received from you a profession of your belief in the teaching of the Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, of your conformity to the Canon and any Statutes or Regulations governing Lay Preachers, and of your willingness to respect the customs and discipline of the Church and to obey those set in authority over you, and having satisfied ourselves as to your fitness for the Office of Lay Preacher.

DO HEREBY ADMIT YOU TO THE OFFICE OF LAY PREACHER whereby you are authorised to perform the duties specified below:

and such other duties as may be authorised by us

Provided always that you do not use the Absolution or the Blessing; and that you do not use The Great Thanksgiving or Prayer of Consecration of a Eucharistic Liturgy.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF we have affixed our Episcopal Seal this day of , in the year of our Lord Two thousand and and in the year of our Consecration.

This Licence unless renewed by our Endorsement will expire on . Before the expiry date, this Licence must be returned to the Bishop for renewal. For renewal, the rear of this licence must be completed and signed by all the appropriate people, and sent to the Bishop.

