

Lay Preaching Initiative FAQ

What is the Lay Preaching Initiative?

The Lay Preaching Initiative (LPI) is our diocesan program that offers active, reflective learning in the art and ministry of preaching. We are part of a larger initiative of 6 dioceses, to empower lay preachers throughout the Episcopal Church.

What do LPI participants do?

Each participant is expected to engage in at least 6 contact hours per month (online and in-person) that will immerse them in the basic foundations and regular practice of preaching. From basic scripture study to regular preaching with peer feedback, participants will be formed in preaching. There will also be at-home work, as well as a regular practice of prayer. The cost of this program is \$300 per year, including all required textbooks. At the end of the two-year period and upon recommendation, participants will be licensed as lay preachers.

But isn't preaching something only clergy do?

No, and that's been true for the over 2000-year history of the church. Preaching is a call, and some who are ordained are called to be preachers, and many lay people are called to be preachers, too. Lay preachers offer an important perspective as they preach the Gospel, and are significant voices the Church needs to hear from the pulpits.

I'm thinking about exploring a call to ordination. Is this a program for me?

Most likely not. There are other ways to explore a call to ordination. This program is specifically for those lay people who feel called to preach the Gospel in our diocese.

What does being licensed for Lay Preaching mean?

After successful completion of the program, lay preachers will be licensed and able to preach in faith communities throughout our diocese. In fact, licensed lay preachers will be expected to preach throughout our diocese, probably once a month. This likely means driving to our communities and maybe leading Morning Prayer. So, you will not serve exclusively in your home faith community, nor will Lay Preachers be a replacement for priests in congregations.

How do I know if I might be called for this program?

Discernment is a time of prayer and conversation with God and with your faith community. If you think you may be called to be the preaching life, spend time in prayer, reflecting on how you have been impacted by preaching, what you think preaching is (hint – it's not an opportunity to tell the Church what you think about certain issues), and if you are willing to make this significant commitment to the formation into a preaching life.

Then talk to your priest. All applicants need to have a letter of recommendation from their clergy person, and all faith communities with a participant in LPI will be expected to support their lay preacher in various ways.

You can also reach out to Dr. Mark Medley at mark.medley@bsk.edu or Mtr. Laurie Brock at rector@saint-michaels.org with questions.

I think I'm interested. Now what?

Complete an application and submit it to both Dr. Mark Medley or Mtr. Laurie Brock by Monday, February 28th. Email is the preferred way to submit your application, but if you need to mail your application, mail it to the Diocese at P.O. Box 610, Lexington, KY 40588-0610.

You will get an email confirming the receipt of your complete application.