

DIOCESE OF WEST MALAYSIA REVISED LAY READERS COURSE 2015

The office of the Reader or Lector was originally one of the minor orders of the Church. They were first mentioned in the third century. They were discontinued in the Anglican practice at the time of the Reformation but the office of Lay Reader in its present form was revived in 1866 by C. J. Elliot, Bishop of Gloucester. The number of Readers increased not only in the Church of England but also throughout the Anglican Communion.

It is desire of the Diocese to “broadening the base of ministry” in the local churches and parishes. To that extent, the Diocese has formulated the roles of Evangelists, Deaconesses and Lay Pastors. The need now arises to revisit and revise the ministry of Lay Readers for effective growth of the church.

This revised Lay Readers Course is aware of the good work done in 1999 in producing the document “Guidelines for the Ministry of Lay Readers”. Thus this revised course will emphasize on the curriculum and course outline. The requirements and other preliminaries as stated in the “Guidelines” are still valid.

It is proposed then to look at 5 Units for the Lay Readers Course:

- 1.Theological / Biblical
- 2.Historical
- 3.Liturgical
- 4.Pastoral
- 5.Practicum

1. THEOLOGICAL/BIBLICAL

1. What is Worship? Biblical Understanding
2. Worship & Theology
3. Word & Sacraments
4. The 31 Articles of Faith
5. The Marks of the Church

2. HISTORICAL

1. History of Anglican Worship
2. History of Reformation
3. History of Church of England
4. Liturgical Reformation by Cranmer
5. History of Province of SEA

3. LITURGICAL

1. Principles of Anglican Liturgical Worship
2. Book of Common Prayer
3. Anglican Liturgical Year
4. The Holy Communion Service
5. Non- Holy Communion Worship
6. Introducing variations and fresh expression

4. PASTORAL

1. Preparing Baptism & Confirmation Candidates
2. Personal Evangelism for the Local Church
3. Discipleship for Local Church
4. How to Preach Effectively
5. Spiritual Formation of the believer

5. PRACTICUM

1. Preparation of the Lord's Table for Communion
2. How to assist at the Communion Service
3. How to Lead Services
4. How to lead Intercessions
5. How to lead a Home Fellowship Group
6. How to do Visitation