

§150 TOGETHER IN GOD’S SERVICE

*Archdiocesan certification/approval in the areas of ministry addressed by the TIGS program (currently Directors of Religious Education and Pastoral Associates), as well as calling and then commissioning for ministry within the parishes of the Archdiocese, will be granted only to individuals who have completed the requirements of **Together in God’s Service Lay Ecclesial Ministry Formation Program**, or those who have met the conditions of the “special circumstances” provision (below).*

*Since employment in the parishes of the Archdiocese as a **certified Lay Ecclesial Minister** requires that a candidate be approved or certified by the respective certifying agency and called and commissioned by the Archbishop, completion of the requirements of **Together in God’s Service**, will, therefore, be a condition of employment for positions in the designated areas of ministry, unless the candidate meets the requirements of the “special circumstances” provision.*

150.1. Policy All Lay Ecclesial Ministers serving in Parishes within the Archdiocese of Chicago shall have completed the requirements of **Together in God’s Service**.

Procedures

Currently, Pastoral Associate (PA) and Director of Religious Education (DRE) are the roles given the designation of Lay Ecclesial Minister in the Archdiocese of Chicago.

The following exceptions are granted for special circumstances:

- a) Ministers from Outside the Archdiocese. Anyone moving to the Chicago area from outside the Archdiocese of Chicago who can demonstrate that she/he has had formational preparation equivalent to that offered through the *Together in God’s Service* program may be certified, called and commissioned for ministry in the archdiocese if they also meet the other certification criteria of the Office of Lay Ecclesial Ministry (OLEM) or the Office for Catechesis (OFC), and after successfully completing one year of employment as a DRE/PA. Those who have not had adequate formation preparation shall participate in the dimension of the *Together in God’s Service* program deemed necessary by the director of the Office for Lay Ecclesial Ministry and/or the Office for Catechesis and the *TIGS* director.
- b) Current Ministers in the Archdiocese of Chicago. Individuals who have been ministering as DRE’s or PA’s and who are currently certified/approved by the Office for Catechesis or the Office for Lay Ecclesial Ministry are exempt from the *TIGS* requirement and qualify for calling and for commissioning by the Archbishop. In addition, the *TIGS* exemption is extended to anyone who qualifies for and receives certification/approval by January 1, 2005.
- c) Other exceptions may be granted by a joint decision of the *TIGS*’ Director, OLEM/OFC Director (as appropriate) and the Director of the Department of Personnel Services.