**Suggested text to accompany LPTI social posts**

After a successful two-year pilot, the diocese is offering a new one-year cohort of the Lay Preacher Training Initiative (LPTI) beginning January 2024. A course of reading, writing, preaching and attending classes, the LPTI prepares participants for certification (at the bishop’s discretion) as a licensed lay preacher.

Funded by a grant from Trinity Church Wall Street, the goal of the LPTI is to develop a robust cadre of lay preachers drawn from within their local communities. By training and supporting lay preachers in The Episcopal Church, the program aims to establish lay preaching and lay leadership as a fourth dimension of diocesan leadership in the Episcopal Church alongside bishops, priests and deacons.

We are looking for people who are comfortable speaking in public, thoughtful about their spirituality, prayerful and active in an Episcopal congregation. Participants should be organized and motivated to direct their own learning and willing to participate in the course. We value the beautiful diversity within our church and welcome people who bring these parts of their lives and experiences into the preaching environment.

Applications (bit.ly/LayPreaching) and recommendation letters are due November 15. An informational session will take place on October 23 and 6:30 p.m. Register at bit.ly/LPTIinfo. Learn more about the initiative at [episdionc.org/lay-preaching-initiative/](https://www.episdionc.org/lay-preaching-initiative/).