

Lay Ministry Pathways | *Preaching*



Course Objectives:

This course aims to...

- Deepen your relationship with God, your appreciation of scripture, and your love for the Gospel.
- Equip you with tools to preach faithfully in various contexts.
- Instill confidence in preaching and public speaking/proclamation.
- Help you to identify your own voice in preaching and the methods of preparation that work optimally for you.
- Allow you to serve as a licensed preacher in congregations across the Diocese of Alabama.

Expectations:

This course requires use of Google Classroom, where all of our course materials and assignments will be kept, and where we will meet most often for our course instruction and discussion. Each participant is expected to attend the online and in-person cohort meetings, as well as to engage in discussion on Google Classroom in between sessions. Instructions on how to use Google Classroom can be found at tinyurl.com/2waznxd.

Participants in this course are expected to attend all of the synchronous (online or in-person) gatherings, though exceptions will be granted on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Canon for Vocations. Participants also must demonstrate adequate proficiency in engaging with the material and assignments in order to be licensed by the Bishop. Please remember that sole discretion for licensure rests with the Bishop, and that participation in this ministry cohort does not guarantee automatic licensure.

Of special importance for this course will be participation in our preaching workshops. Please come prepared to preach and engage with other preachers.

Use of AI to compose sermons is prohibited. (We will talk about AI and its relationship to preaching as part of this course.)

Topics Covered:

- What is a sermon?
- How to Structure a Sermon
- Compositional Methodologies
- Parables and Preaching
- Preaching as Pastoral Care

- Self-Disclosure in Preaching: Establishing Appropriate Boundaries
- Finding Your Homiletical Voice
- How to Faithfully Exegete Scripture
- Telling A Compelling Story
- Preaching in a Digital Age: Platforms for Sharing Sermons
- AI and Sermon Composition

Texts:

Required:

Allen Jr., O. Wesley. *Determining the Form: Structures for Preaching* (Part of the Elements of Preaching series.) Fortress Press, 2008.

Brosend, William. *The Homiletical Question: An Introduction to Liturgical Preaching*. Cascade Books, 2017.

Lewis, Karoline M. *A Lay Preacher's Guide: How to Craft a Faithful Sermon*. Fortress Press, 2020.

The Bible (Any translation is acceptable, but NRSV is preferred.)

Wells, Samuel. *The Heart of It All: The Bible's Big Picture*. Canterbury Press, 2019.

Recommended:

Allen, Ronald J. *Thinking Theologically: The Preacher as Theologian*. (Part of the Elements of Preaching series.) Fortress Press, 2007.

Fentress-Williams, Judy. *Holy Imagination: A Literary and Theological Introduction to the Whole Bible*. Abingdon Press, 2021.

Foskett, Mary F. *Interpreting the Bible: Approaching the Text in Preparation for Preaching* (Part of the Elements of Preaching series.) Fortress Press, 2009.

Fry Brown, Teresa L. *Delivering the Sermon: Voice, Body, and Animation in Proclamation*. (Part of the Elements of Preaching series.) Fortress Press, 2008.

Long, Thomas G. *The Witness of Preaching, 3rd edition*. Westminster John Knox, 2016.

Long, Thomas G. *What Shall We Say?: Evil, Suffering, and the Crisis of Faith*. Eerdmans, 2014.

In addition, other articles, videos, and resources will be posted to Google Classroom throughout the course.