

Learning Program in Preaching 2008-2009

Expectations

The preacher will be prepared to preach in the congregation or diocese. The preacher will complete the three-year, academic ETS program in order to be recommended for licensure.

Knowledge

1. Basic familiarity with Bible, Theology, Church History and Ethics
2. Basic understanding of biblical and theological resources as they apply to the ministry of homiletics.
3. Understand various theologies and practices of homiletics

Skills

The preacher will be able to articulate effective learning by:

1. Writing and delivering an effective sermon.
2. Research, interpret & utilize different modes and styles of preaching
3. Improve writing and delivery via mentor group, homiletics feedback group and supervising priest's written and verbal feedback

Assignments

The student in Preaching shall complete the assignments as described below. The development of each assignment, including the scope, topic and goals for each, shall be discussed, supervised and evaluated by a supervising priest and documented on the form provided, including a timeline for accomplishing the exercises by June, 2009:

Read the four required texts from the provided reading list and one additional book from the Additional Resources list, showing adequate preparation of texts in sermon preparation, delivery and reflection papers.

AND

Write and deliver nine sermons as follow:

- three before the mentor group
- three before the homiletics feedback group
- three before a larger group such as a congregation

AND

Audio and video tape all nine sermons and review the video tape of all nine sermons with the supervising priest.

AND

Written feedback is gathered on all nine sermons (form attached and available on the ETS website at www.etswv.com) and becomes part of the participant's portfolio.

AND

For one of the three sermons preached before the mentor group, a summary of feedback received from mentors and group members along with a 2-3 page reflection paper on the experience of preaching and the feedback received, are turned into the tutor for feedback. This paper is assigned for the month of March.

AND

Include the Millennium Development Goals in at least one sermon.

The written plan for establishing the homiletics feedback group and timeline for completing the nine sermons by June 2009 shall be presented to the mentor group and the mentors shall concur with the plan by October 2008.

In the final paper of the year provide a summary of all feedback received from the mentor group, homiletics feedback group, and congregational preaching. Using the feedback received consider: What did you learn about yourself through the experience of developing sermons and delivering them? What learning edges did the feedback you received reveal; how did you respond? What faith issues arose? Where did you seek support? How will you incorporate what you have learned as you move forward as a preacher?

BOOK LIST

Pre-reading:

Taylor, Barbara Brown. The Preaching Life. Cowley Publications: 1993

Required Reading:

1. Gomes, Peter. Sermons: Biblical Wisdom for Daily Living. HarperOne: 2002.
2. O'Driscoll, Herbert. Living Scripture: The guidance of God on the Journey of Life. Dundurn Press, 2005.
3. Schlafer, David. Surviving the Sermon: A Guide to Preaching for Those Who Have to Listen. Cowley Publications: 1992.
4. Johnston, Michael. Engaging the Word (The New Church's Teaching Series, V. 3). Cowley Publications: 1998.

Additional Resources:

1. Schlafer, David. Your Way with God's Word. Cowley Publications: 1995.
2. Fowler, James W. Stages of Faith. Harper: San Francisco, 1995.
3. Gomes, Peter, The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart. HarperOne: 2002.
4. O'Driscoll, Herbert, Prayers for the Breaking of Bread: Meditations on the Collects of the Church Year. Cowley Publications: 1991.
5. O'Driscoll, Herbert, For All The Saints: Homilies for Saints' and Holy Days. Cowley Publications: 1995.

6. Schlafer, David. Your Way with God's Word. Cowley Publications: 1995.

Sermon Evaluation

(Adapted from the Episcopal Divinity School; <http://www.episdivschool.edu/academic/3FEeval.html>)

Preacher: _____ **Date:** _____

Evaluation by:

___ **Mentor Group member**

___ **Homiletics Feedback group member**

___ **Supervising priest (i.e., the priest present during a sermon delivered before a congregation that is not the mentor group or the homiletics feedback group)**

Regarding the sermon you just heard, indicate whether you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Scale: 1 (Strongly agree) 2 (Agree) 3 (Uncertain) 4 (Disagree) 5 (Strongly disagree)

A. What was the Good News from God in the sermon?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The homily struck me as "good news."</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The homily helped me encounter God.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>I was inspired and/or challenged by the sermon.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

B. Did the sermon honor the integrity of the Bible, the topic, or the liturgical setting?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The sermon made good use of the readings.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The sermon was well integrated into the liturgy.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The sermon helped prepare me for the Eucharist.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

C. Was the sermon theologically adequate?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The sermon was appropriate to the Christian faith as I understand it.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The sermon was consistent with other things Christians say and do.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The sermon was understandable.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 4. | <i>I could imagine the world of the sermon.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 5. | <i>The sermon was morally plausible.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

D. Did the sermon relate the text or topic to the congregation in a responsible way?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The preacher connected with the congregation.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The preacher spoke to my experience.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The preacher spoke down to us.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Scale: 1 (Strongly agree) 2 (Agree) 3 (Uncertain) 4 (Disagree) 5 (Strongly disagree)

E. What was the significance of the sermon for the congregation?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The sermon made specific points of contact with the local context.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The sermon was appropriate to the situation of the congregation.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The homilist helped me and/or the congregation live the Gospel more fully.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

F. Did the sermon move in a way that was easy to follow?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The preacher helped me stay on track throughout the sermon.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The sermon was well-prepared.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The preacher drew me into the sermon with a strong introduction.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 4. | <i>The sermon had a clear conclusion.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 5. | <i>The sermon was an appropriate length.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

G. Did the preacher embody the sermon in an engaging way?

- | | | | | | | | |
|----|--|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| 1. | <i>The preacher exhibited a sense of personal faith and spirituality.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 2. | <i>The preacher conveyed a sense of presence.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 3. | <i>The preacher made good use of voice (clear, well modulated, familiar tone).</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 4. | <i>The preacher referred to notes or manuscript appropriately.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 5. | <i>The preacher maintained good eye contact.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |
| 6. | <i>The preacher exhibited good posture.</i> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | N/A |

Optional question: I want to offer the following advice and suggestions to the preacher so that s/he might continue to grow in effectiveness as a preacher: