



Public Ministry

Robin Linkhart, Instructor

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Small Group Leaders: To Be Announced

August 3 – 7, 2009 8:30 a.m. – Noon

I. Course Description

There will be twenty (20) hours of classroom lecture, discussion, and small group work, as well as assigned readings and written work outside of class.

This course is designed to increase the theological understanding and technical competency of the field minister in the performance of public ministry. Class topics include worship planning, presiding skills, public prayer, exegetical preaching, and the eight sacraments of Community of Christ. Emphasis will be placed on the preaching and sacramental units of the course. Students will be expected to read assigned texts as well as deliver one homily/sermon, plan one worship service, and create public readings and prayers. A particular focus of the course will be the formative and nurturing integration of spiritual disciplines, Christian discipleship, and ministry.

II. Required Reading

Students are expected to complete all reading assignments prior to the first day of class.

Berglund, Brad. *Reinventing Sunday: Breakthrough Ideas for Transforming Worship*. Valley Forge, Pennsylvania: Judson Press, 2001. ISBN 0817014144

Craddock, Fred B. *Preaching*. Nashville, Tennessee: Abingdon Press, 1990. ISBN 0687336481

Gardner, Jane M., ed. *Worship Resources*. Independence, Missouri: Herald House, (current edition, much available online at cofchrist.org)
Assigned reading: Sections I and III (online see: Planning Vibrant Worship; Inclusive Worship; Preaching; Studying a Text)

Ray, David R. *Wonderful Worship in Smaller Churches*. Cleveland, Ohio: Pilgrim Press, 2000. ISBN 08298144000

Taylor, Barbara Brown. *The Preaching Life*. Cowley Publications, 1993. ISBN 156101074X

[Please bring scriptures and assigned texts to class]

III. Course Requirements

- A. Show evidence that class texts have been read and studied prior to class.
- B. ***Due at first class*** - Students will submit a three-page, double-spaced reflection paper in response to ***either*** (1) ***or*** (2):
 - 1. discuss a question or topic emerging from one of the assigned texts which you would like to explore further in class; include how you think it could enhance your public ministry
 - or**
 - 2. explore and discuss the place of preaching in a post-modern church.
- C. Attend all class sessions and participate in discussions and activities. Class time will include lecture format as well as small groups to allow time for sharing oral assignments: short homilies, public readings, and prayers.
- D. Students will deliver a five-minute exegetical homily in class. The homily will be based on a scripture text from the lectionary as listed in *Worship Resources* to be chosen by the student from any lectionary dates August 9, 2009 thru November 21, 2010. (***Please submit three lectionary selections in order of preference to instructor by June 15, 2009 – selections will be approved based on no duplicates and first come first served: linkhart@cofchrist.org***) A full homily manuscript will be **due no later than the last day of class**.
- E. Students will plan and submit a fully developed annotated worship service outline based on lectionary and theme selected from *Worship Resources* chosen by the student from any lectionary dates September 6, 2009 thru November 21, 2010. ***Students will make selections first day of class***. Complete details of assignment will be discussed in the first class session. **Due date: September 1, 2009**. Please e-mail to instructor as a Word attachment.

IV. Course Outline

Session 1

- A. Word and Table: Foundations of Public Ministry
- B. Introduction to Exegetical Preaching: Why Preach? Basic Requirements

Session 2

- A. Language and Symbol: Public Prayer and the Presiding Function
- B. Exegetical Preaching: Getting into the Text—Getting out of the Text

Session 3

- A. Scripture-based Worship Planning
- B. Exegetical Preaching: Crafting the Message

Session 4

- A. Sacramental Life and Practice in the Community of Christ—Part I
- B. Exegetical Preaching: Delivering the Message

Session 5

- A. Sacramental Life and Practice in the Community of Christ—Part II
- B. Sharing Our Witness: Theology of the Sermon