

Please fill out the Preaching Lab Sign Up Sheet that was attached to the pre-conference communication (**or send an email with the subject line: preaching lab interest**) and return it to phdprogram@cts.edu. Assignments will largely be made on a first come, first served. However, decisions will be made by conference leadership to best serve the entire community. Lab assignments cannot be changed.

Lab Code	Description
LC01-EP	<p>Introduction to Expository Preaching and Dialectic Exposition</p> <p>Preachers committed to the black preaching tradition and to the genre of expository preaching are often challenged to maintain fidelity to both tradition and genre. This workshop introduces dialectic exposition as an appropriate theological, rhetorical, and homiletic response to this challenge. Workshop practitioners will engage with the history, theology, nature, definition, and practice of expository preaching through the lens of African American experiences. Practitioners will be exposed to the homiletic methods and insights of historical and contemporary African American expository preachers. At the conclusion of the workshop, practitioners will preach a seven (7) minute dialectic expository sermon for which sermon evaluation and feedback will be provided.</p>
LC02-PF	<p>Preaching Funerals in the “I’m spiritual, not religious” Era</p> <p>The Preaching Funerals workshop will help students learn how to preach a meaningful sermon in difficult contexts, including not knowing the deceased personally, tragic deaths such as murders and miscarriages, as well as other life situations that are not nicely packaged in the box of Christianity. Students will leave with tools to preach powerful, pastoral funeral sermons that honor the life of the deceased as well as the religious faith traditions in which the preacher is held accountable. During the workshop, the students will engage historical prophetic funerals to understand the nuances of prophetically pastoral eulogies, including Benjamin E. Mays’ eulogy of Martin Luther King Jr., and Joseph Lowery’s eulogy of Coretta Scott King. Students will learn how to preach a prophetic funeral sermon that speaks to the social crisis and comforts those that grieve; how to develop a eulogy based upon the character sketch and other techniques specific to funeral development. All preaching methods are welcomed in the class.</p> <p>* Please note: Students may bring a previously delivered eulogy to rework that sermon based on the information learned in the workshop. If not, student may develop a funeral sermon for a prominent figure or someone in the obituary section of the newspaper.</p>
LC03-PP	<p>Prescriptive Preaching</p> <p>This workshop will introduce practitioners to the foundational components of <i>prescriptive preaching</i>, a relevant and practical homiletical methodology that addresses a relevant life issue within the life of the listener and connects it with a correlating biblical text that prescribes what listeners should do, be, believe, or become in response and relationship to that relevant life issue. Over the course of this workshop we will focus on identifying, exegeting, and linking relevant life issues with appropriate biblical texts, homiletical and congregational exegesis, clarifying the central homiletical questions, discovering and developing textual prescriptions, and the structuring of prescriptive sermons. The workshop will culminate with practitioners delivering a seven (7) minute sermon prescriptive sermon receiving critical and constructive feedback from co-learners and the facilitator.</p>

<p>LC04- WP</p>	<p>Introduction to Womanist Preaching</p> <p>This workshop is designed to introduce Womanist Preaching. Womanism is committed to the freedom, survival and wholeness of oppressed communities. Womanist Preaching is not intended to be anti-male” or a platform for “male-bashing”, but a way of affirming the African American female voice and experience in a way that brings about healing, liberation, and wholeness to all oppressed people through proclamation.</p> <p>This workshop will explore the core tenets of womanist theology and the contributions of womanist scholarship in the 20th and 21st centuries. Participants will develop an understanding of the womanist perspectives in homiletical history; identify how historical and patriarchal theological perspectives support oppressive views of women; view examples of Womanist Preaching for insight and discussion; review videos and readings that will help students to understand the core principles of womanist theology and its validity for application and inclusion in biblical preaching practice; develop, write, and preach a 7 minute sermon that is reflective of a womanist homiletic as a group activity.</p>
<p>LC05- EPV</p>	<p>Emerging Preaching Voice</p> <p>This workshop is designed for emerging preaching voices, persons whose preaching opportunities are new, sporadic, and beginning. Participants will have likely had an opportunity to preach, but often ask themselves: “Am I doing it right?” or “I like the way my pastor preaches, but cannot preach like her/him,” or wonder if they have developed their own voice, style, and method of preaching.</p> <p>This workshop is designed to introduce the emerging preacher to structural elements of preaching (nature and purpose of preaching), disciplines of preaching (exegesis and preaching methods), exercises to identify one’s own voice in preaching and an experience of preaching. This workshop is designed to equip the emerging preacher with basic tools in which he or she can build effective sermons.</p>
<p>LC06- EP</p>	<p>Eschatological Preaching</p> <p>If God is indeed at work in the world, how can our preaching invite human participation in God’s activity? Eschatological preaching is Christological preaching. We seek to follow Jesus’ preaching method according to Mark 1:10-15. God’s Spirit physically descends upon Jesus. This is embodied prayer, a human life in unbroken fellowship with God’s Spirit. Prayer offers us awareness of God’s presence, eyes to see God’s work in the world, and ears to hear God’s voice. Jesus preaches that God’s reign has come near.</p> <p>We will practice spiritual disciplines that aid preachers in hearing God’s voice and seeing God’s activity in the world. We will explore texts and learn to preach them eschatologically by asking the following questions: How is God working in this text? Is God working similarly in the present? How does this text affirm or oppose God’s realm (reign)? Do we see similar affirmation or opposition in the present? What reordering of our lives (spiritually, socially, economically, or politically) does the text encourage? What ethical work must preacher and congregation do to join God’s work in the world? We will wrestle with these questions as we develop sermons in community. Our goal is to preach 7-minute eschatological sermons in class.</p>

LC07-MH	<p>A Mosaic Homiletic</p> <p>Effective African American Preaching takes seriously the social location of the hearers, the realities of the historical moment and the complexities of the biblical record. Therefore, when there are significant shifts in the social-political landscape or noticeable changes in the trajectory of history, then preaching must also change. This workshop will explore some of the emerging postmodern beliefs and practical commitments that should be considered if Black preaching wants to be authentic, relevant and faithful in its response to the socio-historic changes in the wider society. Attendees will explore the theologies, rhetorical tools, and sermonic themes in African American preaching that position such preaching to move beyond its historical origins, and to become relevant in a multi-ethnic context. Participants will craft a sermon that can be preached to those who have been described as, Millennials, the “nones” and/or non-Black audiences. A Mosaic preacher can preach beyond the proverbial black and white. Students will preach a 7-minute Mosaic sermon at the end of the workshop.</p>
LC08-PFNP	<p>Preaching Foundations for New Preachers</p> <p>It is oft said that preachers love to preach! This workshop introduces participants to the fundamentals of preaching (purposes and nature), practices of preaching (biblical exegesis and homiletical methods), and the experience of preaching. With an emphasis on African American preaching traditions and methods, this workshop equips students with foundational sermon development skills and resources from which to build effective sermons for an enduring ministry. This workshop aims to introduce students to a sermon development process from idea to delivery, nurture and appreciation for theologically and rhetorically responsible preaching, familiarize participants with celebration method and narrative method, foster production and use of original homiletical material, cultivate enriching and edifying relationships among participants. Lectures and co-learning activities culminate in each student preaching one 7-minute sermon enriched by thoughtful feedback from facilitator and peers.</p>
LC09-MJ	<p>My Journey as Preacher: Preaching as Self-Discovery</p> <p>Who are you as a preacher? How do you understand yourself in relation to God, to your listening community, and to your work as preacher? Who or what are the influences that give definition to your self-understanding as preacher? And how might you be on a journey of becoming what you envision a preacher to be? Participants in this workshop are invited to be self-reflective in community about these and other questions pertaining to their preaching vocations. The aim of this session is for participants to engage in discussion, communal activities, and self-reflective exercises that promote self-understanding. By the end of the session, the goal is for participants to leave with a clearer sense of who they are as preachers. Preachers who have a clearer sense of who they are as preachers are more effective in their preaching. Each student will preach a seven-minute sermon demonstrating the fruits of their self-discovery.</p>
LC10-EPPSS	<p>Expository Preaching: Preaching to Soul and Society</p> <p>Expository preaching is a wonderful preaching method to explore the depths of scriptures to understand what God says, and see how God might have us live, be, or act today. The purpose of this workshop is to aid students in developing expository sermons. Students will learn and exercise skills in sermon development, preparation, and delivery. Students will gain insight in extrapolating the meaning from texts for sermon preparation; creating homiletical outlines; understanding the congregation/audience; creating an introduction; selecting appropriate illustrations; access an approach to sermon delivery; consider both the personal and social applications of principle or principles within a given text; and be able to consider ways to understand their congregation and the larger social context. Students will also be able to preach seven-minute sermons at the close of class and gain feedback.</p>