
Lay Preacher Training 2024-2025

Series 1: Getting Started (Months 1 & 2)

This series provides information and opportunity for reflection and practice as participants prepare for a year-long journey of training for lay preaching. What kind of person desires to preach? What does it mean to be a Lay Preacher for other lay people in the Episcopal Church? How does one come up with a sermon to preach? Series 1 concludes with an opportunity for participants to contemplate their own call to become a Lay Preacher in the Episcopal Church.

By the end of this Series, participants will have...

- Understood the process of this course of study (Unit 1)
- Made a deliberate plan for building and maintaining their own authenticity (Unit 2)
- Thought about the value of practice for effective sermon delivery (Unit 3)
- Written their personal Preaching/Liturgical Dreams (Unit 4)
- Considered the Three-Legged Stool and its relationship to being a Lay Preacher in the Episcopal Church (Unit 5)
- Considered various responses to the “good” news of resurrection (Unit 6)
- Questioned the text of John 6 regarding why some people reject and why others listen to a preacher (Unit 7)
- Written a one-page document on their call to lay preaching (Unit 8)



Series 2: From Text to Sermon (Months 3 & 4)

This Series begins with explorations of biblical texts and moves through some basic steps in how to think about those texts in relation to constructing a basic plan for a sermon. The Series concludes with a focus on writing and evaluating sermon outlines.

By the end of this Series, participants will have...

- Interacted with a self-selected biblical text as preparation for a sermon (Unit 1)
- Created and critiqued Claim Statements for their self-selected text (Unit 2)
- Created Focus Statements for a sermon based on their selected text (Unit 3)
- Written “Focus Statements” for two published sermons (Unit 4)
- Considered various kinds of change and how such change(s) may be imagined for a specific congregation (Unit 5)
- Written possible “Function Statements” for a Sermon (Unit 6)
- Written a sermon outline (Unit 7)
- Assessed your own sermon outlines (Unit 8)

Series 3: From Text to Pulpit (Months 5 & 6)

This Series moves the participant from the study of the text to the task of shaping a sermon – whether through writing a manuscript or notes. In the latter half of the Series, participants begin to preach to the feedback of their colleagues and trainers.

By the end of this Series, participants will have...

- Experimented with their own physical style of preaching (Unit 1)
- Practiced an exegesis of their own on a selected biblical text (Unit 2)
- Practiced looking for unexpected elements in a biblical narrative (Unit 3)
- Practiced three ways to interact with a biblical text (Unit 4)
- Imagined feedback to a preached sermon (Unit 5)
- Analyzed the “shape” of a sermon (Unit 6)
- Prepared a schedule for sermon preparation (Unit 7)
- Preached to Feedback (Unit 8)

Series 4: Enjoying Diversity (Months 7 & 8)

This Series emphasizes the wide diversity in the practice of preaching. The Scriptures contain a multiplicity of different kinds of writing. We live in various contextual contexts— in our homes and a wider culture, all affected by race, gender and sexuality, nationality, education, etc. We have various physical and psychological divergencies. We hear the same words—but differently from how others hear the same words. And we each have a unique voice. This Series looks at each of these types of diversity.

By the end of this Series, participants will have...

- Considered the relation between biblical text's form and that of a sermon (Unit 1)
- Explored the margins of their own lives (Unit 3)
- Imagined different types of hearers (Unit 5)
- Experimented with resonance and diction (Unit 7)
- Preached to Feedback

Series 5: The Preaching Life (Months 9 & 10)

This fifth Series addresses a variety of concerns related to a "preaching life."

By the end of this Series, participants will have...

- Made a piece or event of art in response to the revelation of a biblical text (Unit 1)
- Selected a Lectionary Text for a Sermon (Unit 3)
- Practiced an "Immediate Preaching" strategy (Unit 5)
- Created a Personal Bibliography (Unit 7)
- Preached to Feedback

Series 6: Looking Forward (Months 11& 12)

In addition to encouragement from other Lay Preachers, this final Series continues the Preaching to Feedback experience and concludes with an overall evaluation of the participants' experience of the curriculum and a celebration of lay preaching.

By the end of this Series, participants will have ...

- Written a Statement of Intent as a Lay Preacher (Unit 1)
- Considered a potential "setup" for successful Online Preaching (Unit 3)
- Imagined (or created!) expressions of their own hopes for the future (Unit 5)
- Made a plan to continue to grow in their preaching (Unit 7)
- Celebrated themselves, their colleagues, and their trainers (Unit 8)
- Preached to Feedback