

# **Homiletics Training for Diaconal Formation *Diocese of Colorado***

1/29/2008

## **Premise and Assumption Summary**

The Commission On Ministry (COM) seeks to provide a program for homiletics training that is affordable, flexible, local and effective.

## **Focus:**

The training will take place in preferably the field education congregation (in some instances this may be the sponsoring congregation) with resident clergy or licensed preachers. The training will include the following:

- The need for a sustained discipline of prayerful, theological reflection in which life experience is brought into dialogue with scripture and tradition.
- Helping the listener hear, appropriate and apply the scripture to daily lives.
- The need to speak authentically, transparently, simply and directly to the listener, so that the experience is more dialogical than “preached at”.
- The need to recognize the pastoral importance of preaching.

## **Specific elements would include:**

- Biblical exegesis
- Hermeneutics (Relating the biblical material to our contemporary context).
- Sermon building, preparation, organization
- Public speaking (Poise, posture, voice, engagement).

## **Method:**

- Call together a listening group of 6-8 persons to provide meaningful feedback.
- The candidate will listen critically to not less than six sermons using the enclosed instrument, inclusive of a minimum of two deacons’ sermons viewed with the listening group, live or via video\audio.
- At the same time, the candidate will preach at least four sermons during the course of one year in a variety of contexts:
  1. Sunday morning,
  2. Weekday worship
  3. Simple worship including only the listening group.
- The listening group will be directed by the feedback document enclosed. The forms will be returned first to the rector to assure the feedback is constructive then shared with the candidate. <sup>1</sup>
- At the same time, the candidate will read two or more books from the homiletics bibliography and discuss the contents with the mentor.

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<sup>1</sup> Form created by William Roen of the Alban Institute





**IV. Transformation** - “A sermon must not only please and instruct, it must transform the hearer”, (Augustine of Hippo) “The intention behind Christian preaching is to move men and women to a decision that forms the basis for an entirely new way of living, to transform them through the power of the risen Christ.” (Roen)

**Transformation Feedback**

What decision did the sermon call you to make in your own life?

**Bibliography**

\*\* Preaching, Fred Craddock, Abingdom Press, 1986.

\*\* Surviving the Sermon, David Schlafer, Cowley publishing, 1992.

\*\* The Witness of Preaching, Tom Long, Abingdom Press, 2005

Go Preach, John Gilbert, Discipleship Resources, Nashville, TN. 2002

As One Without Authority, Fred Craddock, Abingdom, Nashville, TN., 1981.

Preachers and Hearers of the Word, William Roen, (Alban Institute publication), 1989.

Lectures on Preaching (1877 Lyman Beecher lectures at Yale)  
Phillips Brooks

The Preaching Event (1979 Lyman Beecher lectures at Yale)  
John Claypool

The Bible in the Pulpit, Leander E. Keck, 1987.

The Preaching Life Barbara Brown Taylor, 1993.

**\*\* Highly Recommended**

For good examples of telling the Gospel creatively in a contemporary context, the following authors may be helpful:

John Claypool, Frederick Buechner and Robert Capon.