

MEADVILLE LOMBARD THEOLOGICAL SCHOOL
ARTS OF MINISTRY
Fall Semester, 2009
M366 Arts of Ministry II: Fundamentals of Preaching

David Bumbaugh Instructor
Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Kings Chapel Room
Office Hours: by appointment

INTRODUCTION

This course will explore the theory and practice of preaching in relationship to the worship life of contemporary Unitarian Universalists. The class will function as a seminar, engaging in an ongoing discussion of the important assumptions that underlie our worship and sermonic practice. Among the topics we will address are:

From what theoretical (theological) base do we begin as we prepare to conduct worship? What are we doing and why? On whose authority do we act? What is the relation between the minister and the congregation (whose service is it anyway)?

What elements go into the creation of an effective service of worship?

What is the nature and purpose of preaching among Unitarian Universalists? What functions for us as the text functions in other religious communions? Is it possible to preach in a nonhierarchical manner?

How do generational differences arising within congregations impact our understanding and practice of worship and preaching? What is the nature of preaching and worship in a pluralistic context?

Our conversations about these questions (and others as they arise) will be informed by the sharing of personal experience, general background reading, observance of Unitarian Universalist services of worship and critical reflection on sermons delivered in the class.

PURPOSES AND GOALS

1. To introduce students to the theory and practice of preaching and worship within liberal religion, particularly Unitarian Universalism. By the end of the course, students will be familiar with major homiletic resources, as well as resources that address the particular challenges of worship within a UU context. They will be able to articulate their own philosophy/theology/theory of worship.

2. To nurture student development in the arts of preaching and worship. This course will provide students with supportive and challenging opportunities to practice and reflect with colleagues upon their experiences with preaching and worship.
3. To introduce students to resources for special services, including rites of passage, seasonal celebrations, intergenerational and interfaith worship.

REQUIREMENTS and EVALUATION

1. Each student will prepare three sermons. Each of these sermons will be delivered in class, and will be submitted in written form. Each of these sermons should include a complete order of service. Each sermon, including the order of service will be posted in the electronic classroom. Both the sermon and the instructor's response will be available to the members of the class.
2. Each student will plan and present a Wednesday evening Vesper Service for the Meadville/Lombard Community.
3. One of the foci of the course will be on the development of special liturgical services, including rites of passage. To that end:
 - A. Each student will create and submit a wedding/union service a child dedication service, a memorial service. This assignment is due October 15.
 - B. Each student will prepare and submit one special/seasonal service of celebration. This assignment is due December 3.
 - C. Each student will be expected to collect or create for him/herself a resource book of readings, prayers, opening and closing words. This resource need not be submitted to the instructor.
4. As a culmination of our work together students will write an integrative paper (four to eight pages) in which they explore their theory/philosophy/theology of worship, its historical grounding in our movement and its relation to current challenges and opportunities confronting Unitarian Universalism. Paper is due at the final meeting of the class, December 10.
5. Finally, students are urged to attend a worship service each week and keep a journal of your experience, and be prepared to share from that experience in class discussion.

The goals and methods of this course lend themselves to a pass/fail grading system. Completion of work, attendance in class and participation in discussion will earn a grade

of pass for the quarter's work. Students who prefer a letter grade should consult with the instructor at the beginning of the quarter.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Arnason, Wayne and Kathleen Rolenz: WORSHIP THAT WORKS

Craddock, Fred: PREACHING

Fritts, Roger: FOR AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE

Keifert, Patrick: WELCOMING THE STRANGER

Proctor, Samuel D.: THE CERTAIN SOUND OF THE TRUMPET

Rzepka, Jane R. and Kenneth Sawyer: THEMATIC PREACHING

Searle, Edward: IN MEMORIAM

UUA: SINGING THE LIVING TRADITION

The following texts are available on moodle

Knowles, Virginia. "Worship as the Fulfillable need of Unitarian Universalists."

Starr, Deane. "An Incarnational Concept of Worship."

_____Special/Seasonal Services

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

Cherry and Sherwood, eds. EQUAL RITES, LESBIAN AND GAY WORSHIP, CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS

Childers, Jana. PERFORMING THE WORD: PREACHING AS THEATER

Corrado, John, et al. LEADING CONGREGATIONS IN WORSHIP (on line)

Doran and Troeger. TROUBLE AT THE TABLE

Hancock, E. Lee. THE BOOK OF WOMEN'S SERMONS

Hughes, Graham, WORSHIP AS MEANING: A LITURGICAL THEOLOGY FOR LATE MODERNITY.

Lischer, Richard, ed., THE COMPANY OF PREACHERS

Olsen, Clark and Betsey Burr: Expressing Unitarian Universalist Beliefs and

Community through Worship (on line)

Patton, Kenneth L., SERVICES AND SONGS FOR THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE

Roberts and Amidon, eds. EARTH PRAYERS

Seaburg, Carl. GREAT OCCASIONS

THE COMMUNION BOOK

CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS

Sewell, Marilyn. CRIES OF THE SPIRIT

Smith, Christine. WEAVING THE SERMON: PREACHING IN A FEMINIST PERSPECTIVE

TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

September 10: GENERAL INTRODUCTION; DISCUSSION OF VESPERS; Reading:
Kiefert: WELCOMING THE STRANGER

September 17: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
WORSHIP AMONG THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS
Reading: Arnason and Rolenz: WORSHIP THAT WORKS; Knowles: "Worship as the
Fulfillable need of Unitarian Universalists"; Starr: "An Incarnational Concept of Worship."

September 24: .DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
PREACHING THEORY
Reading: Craddock: PREACHING

October 1:DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
RITES OF PASSAGE
Reading: Fritts: FOR AS LONG AS WE BOTH SHALL LIVE
Searle: IN MEMORIAM

October 8: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
CRAFTING THE SERMON
Reading: Rzepka and Sawyer: THEMATIC PREACHING//
Lowrey: THE SERMON: DANCING THE EDGE OF MYSTERY

October 15: VESPERS CRITIQUE
PLURALISM IN THE UU CONTEXT
Reading: Proctor: THE CERTAIN SOUND OF THE TRUMPET

October 22: READING WEEK: NO CLASS

October 29: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
DISCUSSION AND FEED-BACK ON RITES OF PASSAGE
PREACHING SESSION

November 5: SEASONAL CELEBRATIONS
PREACHING SESSION
Reading: Special Services

November 12 14: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
PREACHING SESSION

November 19: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS

PREACHING SESSION

November 26: THANKSGIVING BREAK: NO CLASS

December 3: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
PREACHING SESSION

December 10: DISCUSSION OF VESPERS
DISCUSSION OF SPECIAL/SEASONAL SERVICES