

**Call for Papers  
Academy of Homiletics  
Annual Meeting 2020  
Chicago, Illinois  
December 2-4, 2021**

The Academy of Homiletics (AOH) is issuing a call for papers for its December 2-4, 2021 meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Our theme for the conference is “Dare We Dream a Preaching Renaissance:”

*In the difficulty of these days, some have lost belief in the power of the preaching of the gospel. Those that have confidence in preaching are often unsure and uncertain as to how and what to preach to a divided and discombobulated church and nation, given the reality and ramifications of systemic oppression, zoom church, and the Covid-19 pandemic. In the history, depth, power, creativity, and imagination of the African American preaching tradition are untold resources that can be helpful to the greater preaching community. Not only for the present preaching moment, but a broader belief that African American preaching can and will help generate a preaching renaissance to revive American Christianity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The question before the 2021 Annual Meeting of the Academy of Homiletics that we seek to engage is: “Dare We Dream a Preaching Renaissance!”*

We are soliciting papers that enumerate on this theme. Please review the workgroup below and email directly to the Workgroup of your interest.

**2021 WORKGROUPS OF THE ACADEMY OF HOMILETICS**

Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies  
Identity, Imagination, and Narrative  
Pedagogy  
Preaching, Media, and Technology  
Rhetoric  
UnMasking White Preaching

History of Preaching  
Justice Ethics, and Preaching  
Performance Studies  
Preaching and Culture  
Theology of Preaching  
Worship and Preaching

We will continue to use the traditional format in which we have two sessions for workgroups. Half of the workgroups will meet on Friday morning December 4 (10:30am – 1:00 pm) and the other half in the afternoon (2:30pm – 5:00 pm). Each workgroup is allotted 2 ½ hours divided into four thirty-minute sessions with ten-minute breaks between papers. This will allow for a maximum of four papers per group. Some workgroups, however, may have plans to fill some of those slots with book reviews, panel discussions, or sermons. Directions for specific workgroups can be found below.

## PAPER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES FOR ALL WORKGROUPS

### Eligibility:

- Papers must be submitted by Academy members or by sponsored doctoral candidates (PhD, ThD, DMin) who have completed all coursework in a homiletics-related field.
- Papers by doctoral students are to be submitted only by a sponsoring member of the Academy on behalf of the candidate.
- Each workgroup is allotted 2 1/2 hours (four thirty-minute sessions with ten minute breaks between them).

### Copyright and Open Sourcing:

While in the past, Academy papers have been archived and made available to members only, at the 2015 meeting, the AOH membership voted to begin making papers accepted by the Academy and presented at the meeting available to the public through <http://commons.ptsem.edu>. If you do not wish for your paper to be included in this open source format, simply notify the convener of the workgroup to whom you submit your paper at the time of your submission. Copyright for the paper is retained by the author.

### Deadline Dates:

- Papers must be submitted by email attachment to workgroup conveners by **Monday, September 20, 2021**, and must follow the formatting instructions below to be accepted.
- Papers will be vetted by workgroup conveners and submitted to the First Vice President by **Monday, October 11, 2021**.
- The First Vice President will collect and publish the book of papers to the Academy website by the Web Editor no later than **Sunday, November 7, 2021 at 5:00pm**.

### Formatting:

Submit papers only in Word format, using Times New Romans, 12-point font, with Times New Roman 10-point font for footnotes. Maximum paper length is ten pages, single-spaced, including footnotes. Papers referencing historical documents can include longer excerpts of those documents, etc., in an appendix if needed that does not count as part of the ten-page limit. Follow the current Chicago Manual of Style (Turabian) for footnote citation. Do not insert page numbers.

The paper's heading should be centered, in bold font, and include the following information:

**TITLE OF PAPER**  
**Author's Name, Academic Rank, and Title**  
**(or Ph.D./Th.D./D.Min. Candidate and Program)**  
**Sponsor: Name of Sponsor with Academic Rank and Title**

**(for doctoral candidates only)**  
**School of Institution, City, School Web Address**  
**Copyright © 2021 Author's Name**

Abstract:

Authors must submit a 100-150-word abstract of their paper in a separate Word file at the time of submission.

**PAPER SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL WORKGROUPS:**

**HERMENEUTICS AND BIBLICAL STUDIES**

The Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies Workgroup investigates questions about the interpretation of biblical texts for preaching. Papers may explore a variety of issues, including, but not limited to: hermeneutical theory; the text-to-sermon move; the interpretation and homiletical appropriation of particular biblical texts, books, or genres; the homiletical implications of different methodological approaches to the Bible; and hermeneutical reflection on particular instances of practice. Submissions addressing this year's theme are encouraged and will be given preference.

Convener:

Lance Pape  
Granville and Erlene Walker Associate Professor of Homiletics\  
Brite Divinity School  
[l.pape@tcu.edu](mailto:l.pape@tcu.edu)  
Participation:

Academy members are encouraged, but not required, to make a long-term commitment to the group. Visitors from other groups who wish to attend only one of the scheduled papers are welcome to come and go from the session as they wish.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures

Full-length Submission Guidelines and Procedures are allotted 15 minutes for the presentation, with 15 minutes designated for discussion.

**HISTORY OF PREACHING: Preaching and the Social Sciences**

This workgroup welcomes papers that explore preaching and worship in critical conversation with social sciences, especially history, sociology, ethnography, and anthropology. Potential submissions

may fit broadly into categories that examine 1) sermons, worship, and homiletical themes in historical contexts, 2) sociological studies about preaching and worship in contemporary communities or traditions, and/or 3) interdisciplinary work that draws upon critical methods from social sciences to develop deep descriptions about a homiletical theme, particular preacher(s), collection of sermons, or worshipping communities.

The co-conveners are enthusiastic supporters of research from newer voices at the Academy, including submissions from candidates in graduate programs. The theme of each Academy meeting will guide conversations about potential panel discussions and partnerships with other workgroups. At the same time, the co-conveners welcome submissions of thoughtful research that may fall outside the year's theme.

Co-Conveners:

Hyemin Na

Assistant Professor of Religion, Media and Culture

Drew University

[hna1@drew.edu](mailto:hna1@drew.edu)

Andrew T. Scales

Chaplain, Princeton Presbyterians

Princeton University

[ascales@princeton.edu](mailto:ascales@princeton.edu)

Kimberly R. Wagner

Assistant Professor of Homiletics

Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

[Kimberly.wagner@lstc.edu](mailto:Kimberly.wagner@lstc.edu)

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- Please submit papers to **all conveners**.
- Papers submitted to the group will be evaluated by a small “jury” of the co-conveners. If a paper concerns an area, figure, era, or style that is not familiar to the co-conveners, they will ask someone with relevant competence to evaluate it. The standards will be the standards for things like evidence, sources, and claims that are appropriate for the particular descriptive discipline involved. We will also look for clarity of thought, significant arguments, and, of course, a clear focus on preaching.
- Submissions can be accepted in the form in which they are submitted, accepted on the condition of some revisions, or simply refused. All papers will receive comments designed to help the author take the paper to the next level.

- Multi-media submissions are welcome, especially when the media contribute to the work of rich description. For instance, archival recordings that could be played in a workgroup session might significantly enhance the quality of a paper (sent email 6/4/2021)

## **IDENTITY, IMAGINATION, AND NARRATIVE**

This group considers the theological implications and horizons of identity, imagination, and narrative for homiletics. Our three terms cover a wide range of possibilities.

“Identity” recognizes how self-examination and embodiment in all of their array empower preaching. “Imagination” articulates how play and boundary-breaking embolden homiletic inquiries that do not easily fit within other Academy workgroups. “Narrative” refers to a canonized preaching style and methodology, especially with regard to biblical interpretation, as well as ways of truth-telling in genres and registers that warrant more attention and development. We welcome papers that explore theoretical approaches to homiletics (ranging from the postcolonial, affect, aesthetic, critical race, transdisciplinary, and more). We also invite papers that think about proclamation as more than an ecclesial practice and an exclusively Christian form of spoken witness (that explore religious pluralism, for example). The descriptions noted above are indicative of the many creative directions our group has welcomed and intends to foster in years to come.

Co-Conveners:

Gerald Liu  
geraldliu@gmail.com

Donyelle McCray  
Assistant Professor of Homiletics  
Yale Divinity School  
[donyelle.mccray@yale.edu](mailto:donyelle.mccray@yale.edu)

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Members are encouraged to submit academic papers or sermons related to the description of the Workgroup or the conference theme. In order to ensure ample time for discussion, sermons should not exceed 15 minutes. We also welcome graduate student contributions that are appropriately scholarly and have garnered appropriate home institution and advisor support. Please e-mail submissions in one message to both conveners by the Academy deadline and contact conveners by e-mail in a shared message with any questions.

## **JUSTICE, ETHICS, AND PREACHING**

This workgroup welcomes papers that advocate for preaching about societal issues and concerns related to justice and ethics. Topics may include (but are not limited to) issues such as immigration policy, racism, white supremacy, sexism, classism, sex trafficking, domestic violence, etc.

Topics related to the conference theme are welcome and must be related to the focus of the workgroup. Papers should provide suggestions about how to preach effectively on these topics. Other topics may be considered.

Convener:

Debra J. Mumford  
Frank H. Caldwell Professor of Homiletics  
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary  
[dmumford@lpts.edu](mailto:dmumford@lpts.edu)

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

No more than four papers will be accepted for any given annual meeting to allow for meaningful discussions. At least one slot each year will be reserved for a graduate student paper. Though papers are generally accepted on a first come, first serve basis, papers may be denied for poor academic quality.

## **PEDAGOGY**

The Pedagogy Work group explores and demonstrates theory and method on matters pertaining directly to the teaching of preaching. The convener and assisting members will attempt to provide balance between papers discussing theories of teaching and papers that demonstrate specific teaching practices for homiletics to consider. We prefer but are not limited to pedagogical philosophies and/or practices that have been tested in homiletics classrooms or field experiences.

Convener:

David B. Ward  
Associate Professor of Homiletics  
Indiana Wesleyan University  
[dave.ward@indwes.edu](mailto:dave.ward@indwes.edu)

Participation:

Participants are invited to stay with the workgroup for its full session and to consider making a long-term commitment. Neither is required as guests are always welcome.

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

- The Convener and another group member will read all papers submitted to this workgroup. If more papers are submitted than can be accommodated the Convener will ask members of the group to help decide which papers are most deserving. Earlier submissions will receive earlier approvals. The group wants to supply a safe space for the exploration of new ideas so its goal is

not to exclude papers. The convener may, however, refuse papers lacking in correct style or academic quality.

- Papers addressing the theme of the 2021 meeting will be given preference so far as they are related to homiletical pedagogy.
- 30 minutes will be allotted per paper. Presenters are encouraged to limit summaries of their paper to 10 minutes to allow ample time for discussion of the work by the group.

## **PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

The Performance Studies group explores preaching as performance: an embodied, dramatic event involving the preacher, texts, community and Spirit, an interplay of performers and participative audience.

In light of the Academy theme, "Dare We Dream a Preaching Renaissance!," our workgroup will be receiving papers that reflect on African American preaching as a performative act that dares to dream of preaching's future in light of the future of God. Special consideration will be given to projects and papers that engage particular African-American sermons through performative lenses of embodiment, emplacement, and Spirit-filled practice. Please submit papers to the workgroup convener by the Academy deadline. (updated)

Convener:

Jerusha Matsen Neal

Assistant Professor of Homiletics Duke Divinity School

[jneal@div.duke.edu](mailto:jneal@div.duke.edu)

## **PREACHING AND CULTURE - 2021**

The Preaching and Culture Workgroup focuses on a variety of theological and methodological issues emerging from the contemporary cultural context for preaching. The Workgroup revisits the perennial homiletical question, "How can preachers mediate Gospel and Culture?" This year, in keeping with the theme "Dare We Dream a Preaching Renaissance!", we encourage papers or projects that explore the role of preaching in relation to the following questions: In what ways does preaching help to mediate cultural divides, proclaim truth in the midst of disinformation, and confront and deconstruct oppressive systems? What are the possibilities for preaching in a

culture that has been profoundly changed by the Covid-19 pandemic and the sudden emergence of digital worship and ministry? How might we draw on the rich and varied culture of the African American community to infuse preaching with a renaissance of prophetic proclamation? Approaches might include interdisciplinary studies with social and cultural theories, interreligious and intertextual hermeneutics, theologies of multiculturalism and postcolonialism, or theories of intercultural and intergenerational communications in post-Christendom.

Co-Conveners:

Leah Schade  
Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship  
Lexington Theological Seminary  
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Eunjoo Mary Kim  
Professor of Homiletics and Liturgics  
Iliff School of Theology  
[ekim@iliff.edu](mailto:ekim@iliff.edu)

**Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:** Please submit papers to both conveners by the Academy deadline. Members are encouraged to submit any academic papers related to the description of the Workgroup, in addition to this year's conference theme. Sermons and book reviews are also welcome. If you want to preach a sermon and discuss it, your preaching should be no longer than 10 minutes. Please feel free to contact the convener if you have any questions.

## **PREACHING MEDIA AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Preaching and Media Workgroup will engage the potential intersections between Preaching and Social Media and Technology, especially considering this year's theme and the experiences of preachers today. Technology is playing a larger and more integrative part of 21st century culture. How can preaching, media, and technology aid in creating a preaching renaissance? This work group will look at the ways preaching using media and technology intersect, how and why media and technology can be used in worship, why it might not be useful in some situations and contexts, and the theological and practical implications for their possible utilization in our preaching, especially regarding the theme of a preaching renaissance.

Convener:

Karyn L. Wiseman  
Herman G. Stuempfle Associate Professor of Homiletics  
United Lutheran Theological Seminary – Philadelphia + Gettysburg  
[kwiseman@uls.edu](mailto:kwiseman@uls.edu)

**Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:**

Since this workgroup is a relatively new addition to the Academy of Homiletics, the members are encouraged to submit any academic papers related to the description of the Workgroup. In addition, sermons and book reviews are welcome. If you want to preach a sermon and discuss it, your preaching should be no longer than 10 minutes. Please feel free to contact the convener if you have any questions.

## **RHETORIC**

The Rhetoric Workgroup provides a forum for exploring questions related to the human dimension of preaching's craft traditionally identified with both the classical and contemporary traditions of rhetoric. From antiquity rhetoric has been taught as the art of reasoning in matters of contingent discourse trading in probable judgments rather than certain knowledge, in communicating contextually applied truths rather than communicating universal truths. Rhetoric then provides homiletics with resources to examine aspects of the craft of preaching, focused on how potentially diverse listeners may be influenced to become receptive to sermonic appeals, whether explicitly or implicitly embedded in this reasoning. It also focuses on developing increasing awareness of what counts as contextually meaningful sermonic reasoning resources. This includes context and meaningful sermonic language use (including figures of thought and speech), contextually meaningful sermonic designs, and contextually meaningful forms of sermon delivery. In general, contributors are encouraged to either address the theme for the Academy meeting that year or contribute to disciplinary knowledge out of their own scholarly project(s). Occasional forums on selected subject may be held.

Convener:

Joseph Evans  
Associate Professor of Homiletics  
Dean of the Morehouse School of Religion  
Interdenominational Theological Center Atlanta, GA  
[j.e3@aol.com](mailto:j.e3@aol.com)

## **THEOLOGY OF PREACHING**

As teachers of preaching, we are tasked with helping our students develop a theology of preaching that will deepen and develop through a lifetime of breaking open God's Word. We explore our theological vision as we consider questions such as: Who is the God whom I preach? What is the action of God in preaching? How do we understand and articulate the act of preaching and the role of the preacher within the community and in the mission of the church? How is our theology of preaching formed and articulated, consciously or unconsciously by our social location, ethnicity and culture? Our responses to these and other similar questions constitute our theology of preaching.

*Co-Conveners:*  
Deborah Organ

The University of St. Thomas  
[daorgan@stthomas.edu](mailto:daorgan@stthomas.edu)

Susan McGurgan  
Associate Professor of Pastoral Theology  
Mount St. Mary's School of Theology/The Athenaeum of Ohio  
[smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu](mailto:smcgurgan@athenaeum.edu)

#### Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedure:

- Please submit papers to **both conveners** by the Academy deadline.
- We recognize that while some Academy members have a long-standing relationship with a particular working group, others prefer to hear a variety of papers. We welcome all who wish to attend, whether that attendance is for the entire session or one particular paper. We strongly encourage participants to read and reflect on the papers they will hear, so that they may participate fully and fruitfully in the discussions.
- For 2021, the Theology of Preaching Workgroup will accept up to 4 papers for presentation. Doctoral students who have completed all of their course work are invited to submit a paper **via their advisor**, who should be a full member of the academy. Preference will be given to submissions related to the conference theme, "Dare we Dream a Preaching Renaissance!" using the richness of the African American preaching tradition as a lens or resource. If more than four papers are submitted, the conveners will select those to be presented. No papers in need of significant editing for content, length or language will be considered.

## UNMASKING WHITE PREACHING

### UNMASKING WHITE PREACHING

The Unmasking White Preaching Workgroup investigates the meaning and evolution of white preaching, its nature, its function, and its impact. We hope to foster a sustained and focused conversation about intersections between homiletics and invisible and uninterrogated whiteness, which manifest at least partially in the assumptions of Western thought and white dominant culture. This will be the third of an ongoing series of interdisciplinary conversations that will be published in as an anthology of scholarship making this work more broadly accessible.

Co-Conveners  
Lis Valle-Ruiz  
Assistant Professor of Homiletics and Worship  
and Director of Community Worship Life  
McCormick Theological Seminary  
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Andrew Wymer  
Assistant Professor of Liturgical Studies  
Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary  
[andrew.wymer@garrett.edu](mailto:andrew.wymer@garrett.edu)

Paper Submission Guidelines and Procedures:

Papers for this group will primarily be solicited by the co-conveners; however, we invite submissions of papers up to 4,000 words in length to both conveners by the Academy deadline.

## **WORSHIP AND PREACHING**

The Preaching and Worship group this year is considering papers drawing attention to how these two liturgical elements demonstrate, call for, and participate in, embodied Christian practices in response to a rapidly changing world increasingly uncertain about the efficacy of the ancient texts and traditions of a people identified by commitments to American Christianity. This year's theme challenges us to considerations of the intersection of Preaching and Worship as these liturgical elements impact, engage, critique, or advance the proclamation of the gospel in a context that seems more public, more precarious, and more passionate, and yet no less divided, doubtful, and destitute than previous generations. We are accepting proposals for papers or a panel that might engage how the preached word in the context of worship encourages and calls for a community that restores hope for a world in need of a renaissance.

Co-Conveners:

Joy J. Moore

Professor of Biblical Preaching

Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculty

Luther Seminary

[jmoore002@luthersem.edu](mailto:jmoore002@luthersem.edu)

Catherine E. Williams

Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship

Director of Chapel Worship

Lancaster Seminary

[cwilliams@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:cwilliams@lancasterseminary.edu)

Members are encouraged to submit any academic papers related to the description of the Workgroup, in addition to this year's conference theme or specific to Liturgical practices are welcomed. Please submit papers to Joy J

Moore [jmoore002@luthersem.edu](mailto:jmoore002@luthersem.edu) or Catherine  
Williams [cwilliams@lancasterseminary.edu](mailto:cwilliams@lancasterseminary.edu) by the Academy deadline.