

Effective preaching requires confidence in engaging Scripture and the content of our faith, crafting context-appropriate sermons, and effectively proclaiming God's word. The Episcopal Diocese of Rhode Island and Pathways for Baptismal Living at Bexley Seabury Seminary are partnering to offer the preparation you need to be a successful preacher. This process has been designed to meet the requirements of the Canons of the Episcopal Church for licensing after approval by Bishop Knisely. It has two parts. Confidence in Engaging Scripture and the Content of Faith can be met by 1) taking the three Fundamentals of Faith courses listed below, 2) completing Education for Ministry (EfM), or 3) completing the equivalent in a manner approved by the Bishop. The course, Preaching: Claiming My Voice, completes the second part, Crafting Context-Appropriate Sermons & Effectively Proclaiming God's Word.

CONFIDENCE IN ENGAGING SCRIPTURE AND THE CONTENT OF OUR FAITH

The Fundamentals of Faith Series was created to ensure pastoral leaders feel confident in their knowledge of and comfortable speaking about the essential elements of their faith. Each course is designed to survey a topic over 4-weeks of blended synchronous and asynchronous activity. Participants engage course materials, online discussions (chat-like) and live web conference for about 3-4 hours/week. Those preparing to be licensed to preach will take three of the six courses:

FOUNDATIONS FOR BAPTISMAL LIVING

Sept 4-Oct 1, 2022, Jan 8-Feb 4, 2023

Baptism is our initiation, as Christians, into a radical new life with God and a commitment to orient that life toward God's Mission. Recognizing how we interpret our experience of God and express our understanding of God are foundational elements of Baptismal Living. This course explores how we think theologically and how to engage in theological reflection. Together we will identify our own theologies, grapple with how social location influences our interpretations, and practice ways to interact with those who think differently.



Elizabeth Mae Magill (Liz) is a writer, pastor, and workshop leader living in Berlin, Massachusetts. She is the author of *Five Loaves, Two Fish, Twelve Volunteers: Growing Relational Food Ministries* and the founder of Worcester Fellowship, an outdoor church reaching adults without homes. She is currently rector at Ashburnham Community Church in Berlin. A graduate of the Episcopal Divinity School (MDiv) and Brite Divinity Schools (DMin), she is ordained with the Christian Church Disciples of Christ.

ENGAGING GOD'S STORY

Oct 2-29, 2022, Feb 5-Mar 4, 2023

Besotted is defined as "strongly infatuated" or "obsessed." The writers and editors and traditioners of the Bible were besotted, with God certainly, but also with community, and with life as it ought and can be lived. This course offers an orientation to the Bible and its sources and is designed with the hope that you, too, will be besotted as we wrestle with how to approach, appreciate, and apprehend God's Story and the sometimes perplexing, sometimes delightful, sometimes maddening, and always incisive texts that have endured and thrived for millennia.



Victoria (Vicki) Lynn Garvey's passion for learning and teaching, and the Church, are reflected in her professional career where she taught at nearly every level from 2nd graders through graduate school. Now retired from seminary teaching, she was a Biblical languages and biblical theology professor at Seabury-Western (one of our federation schools). A church consultant and well recognized lay leader, Vicki's passions for learning, teaching, and Church most recently were fed in her position as Bishop's Associate for Lifelong Christian Formation in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago where she even got paid for doing what she loves. Her doctorate in Biblical languages and Biblical Theologies is from Vanderbilt.

THEOLOGY AND ETHICS

Sept 4-Oct 1, 2022, Mar 5-Apr 1, 2023

This course introduces learners to the core questions of Christian theology and explores some of the answers that Christian thinkers have proposed for those questions over the centuries. Together, we'll explore what these theological issues mean for us, and how they can affect the way we live our lives.



Timothy Maness is fascinated by how we as people decide what we believe and why, and by how we relate our beliefs to what we perceive, what we learn, and what we do. A lot of his scholarship reaches across what is often a divide between Christianity and science. He loves teaching all ages from high school physics to undergraduates taking Stephen Prothero's Death and Immortality course at BU. A Ph.D. graduate from Boston University's Department of Religion, Tim is turning his dissertation, "Redeeming Time: Special Relativity, Flowing Time, and Religious Thought," into a book.

CRAFTING CONTEXT-APPROPRIATE SERMONS & EFFECTIVELY PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PREACHING: Claiming Your Voice

Oct 2-Dec 3, 2022, 2023 TBD – likely Apr 16-June 24, Oct 1-Dec 2

Effective preaching requires confidence in engaging Scripture and the content of our faith, crafting context-appropriate sermons, and effectively proclaiming God's word. This course focuses on the latter: developing your sermons and having the confidence to effectively deliver them.

Course participants will need to purchase two required texts: *Your Way with God's Word*, by David Schlafer and *Determining the Form*, by O. Wesley Allen Jr. These will be supplemented with essays, videos, and other resources provided online.

ORGANIZATION OF COURSE

- WEEK 0: Introductions, Expectations, Mutual Invitation and Respectful Communications (Asynchronous)
- WEEK 1: Preparing the Preacher (Synchronous and Asynchronous)
- WEEK 2: Preparing to Preach (Asynchronous)
- WEEK 3: Engaging Scriptural Imagination (Synchronous and Asynchronous)
- WEEK 4: Studying the Text (Asynchronous)
- WEEK 5: Framing the Sermon (Synchronous and Asynchronous)
- WEEK 6: Constructing A Sermon: Introductions, Examples, Illustrations
- WEEK 7: Preach with Feedback
- WEEK 8: Preach with Feedback (Synchronous)



The Rev. Susan R. Ironside, is an Episcopal priest serving as Rector of Grace Church, Madison, NJ. A faculty member for the Episcopal Preaching Foundation, she graduated from General Theological Seminary in 2010 and received their Bishop of Newark Preaching Prize. She is passionate about preaching and forming preachers around the country in an on-line mentoring project. She previously served as Rector of the Church of St. John on the Mountain in Bernardsville in the Diocese of New Jersey and has served on various committees in the Diocese of New Jersey including the Bishop's Advisory Committee on Liturgy. Prior to seminary, Ironside had a career as a Registered Nurse, working with adults in crisis, so pastoral care has an important place in her life and schedule.

TECHNOLOGICAL REQUIREMENTS

- Participants will need a device capable of high speed internet connections and web conferencing (camera, speakers/headset, microphone). While you will be able to access course material on a mobile phone or tablet, the larger screen size of a laptop or desktop is highly recommended.
- Chrome is recommended for the most reliable internet streaming.
- Zoom is used for live (synchronous) discussions: <https://www.zoom.us>. The specific class url will be provided to course registrants before the first class.
- Pathwright is the learning management platform: <https://bexleyseabury.pathright.com/library>

For more information, please contact Julie Lytle, MDiv, PhD, Director of Distributive and Lifelong Learning Initiatives, Bexley Seabury Seminary, jlytle@bexleyseabury.edu. 617-669-8411.