TRANSFORMATIVE PREACHING & LEADING: SHAPING PROPHETIC COMMUNITIES

The measure of a leader is not rank, title or fame, but the quality of community the leader has cultivated. For Christian ministry communities, such as congregations and ministry organizations, their leaders need growing expertise in the practices that shape communities to be vibrant in Christian witness and discipleship. This cohort invites career ministry leaders to deepen three primary skill sets: spiritual formation, biblical preaching and missional leadership. In this conversation, participants will focus on deepening the spirituality of themselves and of those they serve, expanding their capacity as preachers and sharpening their organizational intelligence to better mobilize their communities toward witness within and beyond the walls of the church.

Participants in this cohort:

- Revisit ministry foundations in spiritual formation, preaching and leadership.
- Examine the intersection between the leader’s formation (internal) and the leader’s ministry expressions of leadership and preaching (external), especially the ways in which these inform the shaping of ministry communities.
- Receive practical faculty-mentor, peer and community feedback on preaching and leadership practices in ministry throughout the program.

Faculty Bio

Leadership educator, coach, scholar and author, Dr. Russell West is motivated to help leaders — executive and emerging — experience the kind of velocity that comes with living life on a mission. He is most known for his scholarship that explores leadership as a reflex. He gets energy from multiplying effort through teamwork. He and his professional collaborators have founded non-profits (Leadership Training International, The Emergence Group) and have written leadership development books, journals, manuals and articles. If you can’t find him, he’s probably somewhere mentoring emerging leaders, revising a book draft or plotting the next big sailing adventure with family and friends.

Dr. Thomas Tumblin served 10 years in ministry at Ginghamsburg United Methodist Church (Tipp City, Ohio) before joining the Asbury Theological Seminary faculty in 1999. He now serves as Professor of Leadership and Dean of the Beeson International Center at Asbury Seminary. He serves widely as a consultant to local congregations and as a leader in the academy and as District Superintendent of the Findlay and Northwest Plains Districts of the West Ohio Conference.
“Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”
– 2 Timothy 4:2

Class Descriptions

I. Formation of the Preacher

This course explores the intersections between spiritual formation, leadership and the prophetic witness of preaching. Participants revisit the foundations of preaching ministry, gaining a critical understanding and competence of preaching as a witness, gift and worship. Participants are formed through discussions of theology and formational practices in the Wesleyan tradition, integrated with biblical study. This course emphasizes the practical habits appropriate within the context of personal, social and cultural challenge and change.

II. Community Shaping Leadership

This course provides a theoretical and practical orientation to leadership development studies through the lens of missional leadership theory, research and application. Ministry leaders will develop culturally appropriate strategies, perspectives and principles that will help them develop leaders in their current/anticipated ministry settings. By the end of the course, participants will have both theoretical foundations and practical skills, allowing them to design and facilitate missional leadership development informally and formally.

III. Preaching as Prophetic Witness

This course explores the intrinsically prophetic witness of pastoral ministry, identifying practical skills needed for faithful preaching in order to build up the Church. Designed for pastors, this course encourages credibility and courage in reading and speaking the Word of God in order to call others to faithful obedience. Participants learn to demonstrate both missional and formational leadership capacity in order to deepen the witness of congregations and ministry communities.

IV. Leadership for Mobilization

This course examines biblically-informed principles related foundationally to the leadership skills of vision, mobilization and organizational development. Participants are challenged to describe, analyze and confront the obstacles in self, supervision, situation, system, strategy and society that may counteract the realization of organizational development. Readings, conversations, learning and experiences focus on the priorities and practices that sustain missional leadership lifestyles and contributions.