

# Leading from the Pulpit

July 8-12, 2024, 9 am-12pm

## Course Description

**Instructors:** Lonnie Delisle [ldelisle@gmail.com](mailto:ldelisle@gmail.com) and Will Willimon [will@duke.edu](mailto:will@duke.edu)

**Purpose:** How is the proclamation of the gospel integral to pastoral leadership? In what ways does the challenge of leading a faith based organization enrich and challenge the ministry of preaching? This class will give students the opportunity to consider preaching as a multifaceted chief pastoral endeavor. Through reading, lectures, and viewing of sermons, students should increase their capacities to preach and to lead a congregation.

A key relationship in ministry is that between lead minister and music director. This class will give students and opportunity to consider numerous ways to view both worship music as well as music leadership in the church. Students should be equipped with practical ways to nurture the worship ministry in ways that enhances both their preaching and the overall worship service.

### Competence Objectives:

Construal of preaching as a theologically authorized act of ministry that is at the core of the Christian faith. Ability critically to assess one's own preaching strengths and weaknesses. Skills in helping fellow students grow in their preaching capacity. Insights on how preaching is an integral part of Christian leaders motivation, orchestration, accountability, and encouragement of those who are committed to their oversight and care. Assessment of oneself as a Christian leader.

Students will identify ways the sermon and the worship music are not independent elements, but interdependent elements within a worship service.

Students will be able to articulate their philosophy of leadership as it applies to the relationship between lead pastor and music director.

Students will gain insights regarding the variety of roles the church musician / music director / worship pastor fills, and how to lead accordingly.

### Format and Content:

This class meets daily July 8-12 from 9am-12pm. The class will be interactive with lectures by the instructors, videos of sermons, reading related to preaching and congregational leadership, worship and music leadership, and group discussion.

### Texts:

Will Willimon, *Leading with the Sermon: Preaching as Leadership*, Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 2020.

Will Willimon, *Listeners Dare: Hearing God in the Sermon*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2022.

Karoline M. Lewis, *Embody: Five Keys to Leading with Integrity*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2020.

Cherry, Constance M., *The Worship Architect*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, Baker Academic, Grand Rapids, 2021.

Hicks, Zac., *The Worship Pastor*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids, 2016.

**Before class meets:**

1. Read *Leading with the Sermon* as preparation for the course.
2. Record a sermon, preferably video from within the worship context where you lead, in which you take a biblical text and, through the sermon, attempt to provide leadership in your context. The sermon should be no more than 15 minutes in length, where possible. The class will view your sermon during the course of the week.

**Class Sessions:**

Note: Submit a one-page response for each of the assigned readings for each class. Your response should include your key reactions and takeaways from your reading as applied to your ministry context. These responses are due by 11:00 pm **before the beginning of each class session. Submit to:** [will@duke.edu](mailto:will@duke.edu) and [ldelisle@gmail.com](mailto:ldelisle@gmail.com)

**1. Considering Preaching**

Why preaching? The theological foundations and authorization of preaching. Contemporary challenges for the preacher. How to build capacity in a preacher.

**Reading: *Leading with the Sermon*, chapters 1-2; *Listeners Dare*, chapters 1-3**

Why music and the arts?

Theological, cultural, and scientific understandings of the role of music.

What is the variety of worship music available to us today, and how do we best choose?

**Reading: *The Worship Architect*, chapter 10.**

**2. Considering the Sermon as an Act of Worship**

What is a sermon? What are the criteria for a “good sermon”? How to devise a sermon. Listeners and sermons. The future of the sermon. ***Listeners Dare*, chapter 3 to end of book.** ,

What is the interplay between the sermon and the music?

How to consider potential ways to creatively think about co-crafting a worship service.

Excellence matters, in both preaching and in music, but what do we do with the dreaded word “performance” as it relates to worship?

**Reading: *The Worship Architect*, chapter 11.**

**3. Considering Leadership as a Collaborative Endeavor**

What are the characteristics of “good leadership”? What are the major challenges that contemporary leaders face? What are useful resources available to help contemporary Christian leaders? What are some of the ways that leadership and preaching support and are in tension with one another?

How to bring out the best in those you lead, including the worship leader. (aka musician / music director / worship pastor)

Considering the church minister as a partner in ministry, how can a healthy, collaborative relationship be developed?

**Reading: *The Worship Pastor*, introduction, chapter 1. *Leading with the Sermon*, chapters 3-5.**

#### **4. Considering Leadership in Christ's Name**

What makes leadership Christian? In what ways does leadership in the name of Christ challenge contemporary secular definitions of leadership? What can Christian leaders learn from thought on secular leadership?

Church musician as Christian minister: What are the leadership qualities to consider for such a role?

**Reading: *The Worship Architect*, chapter 2.**

#### **5. Considering Yourself as Preacher and Leader of Worship**

What are your personal, unique gifts as a preacher? As a leader? How does your ministry as preacher interface and contribute to your role as an institutional leader? What are your personality characteristics that make it a challenge for you to be a preacher/leader in the present moment?

The preacher/leader and the musician/leader have both unique and overlapping roles in the spiritual leadership of the congregation.

How does each support the other in these roles?

**Reading: *The Worship Pastor*, chapter 10.**

**After end of week's classes, read Karoline M. Lewis, *Embody: Five Keys to Leading with Integrity*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 2020. Send in a one page response to instructors by August 1.**

#### **Evaluation:**

1. One page response to the assigned readings for each class, to be submitted by 11:00 pm before each class session. All other requirements, as listed below in 2-4 are to be submitted by August 1.
2. Submit a one page statement in response to the question, "How my preaching may change as a result of this class."
3. Submit a one page statement in response to the question, "How my leadership may change as a result of this class."
4. Submit a sermon that is based on a biblical text of your choosing that speaks to, is designed to relate to, or arises out of some leadership challenge within your leadership context. Along with your sermon, submit a one page description of your exegesis and hermeneutics of the biblical text that led you to preach this sermon. Give a one page

description of the leadership context or quandary that led to this sermon. Submit a transcript of the sermon along with these supporting materials.

Submit these materials to [will@duke.edu](mailto:will@duke.edu) and [ldelisle@gmail.com](mailto:ldelisle@gmail.com) by **August 1, 2024**.