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**Rending and Repair—Preaching and the Arts on Conflict Transformation**  
**O'Driscoll Forum**  
**Summer School 2025**  
**Course Description**

**PURPOSE:**

In working with fabric, torn or broken fabric becomes an opportunity for creating something new—a repair changes something, makes it unique and gives it new life and purpose.

In our world, Holy Spirit can use conflict as an opportunity for breaking open our hearts and communities, to bring change, for communities to experience new life, and get clarity about purpose. Preaching participates in and bears witness to this sanctifying and transformative work.

This course will bring together the creativity of collage, quilting, and other fabric artistry with the process of sermon creation to open up new pathways towards conflict transformation.

**PREREQUISITES:**

None

**COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES:**

- Define conflict and conflict transformation.
- Learn about conflict analysis tools and conflict styles
- Integrate skills related to creative artistic processes and conflict transformation to scriptural study, sermon creation and delivery.
- Recognize oneself as beloved of God and inherently creative.

**FORMAT AND CONTENT:**

This course will be offered in-person only during Summer School in the mornings the week of July 14-18. There will be a lecture and hands-on creative activity open to the general public the evening of July 17—this event is also part of the course and will be accessible by zoom and recorded.

**TEXTS:**

Eliza Griswold, *Circle of Hope: A Reckoning with Love, Power, and Justice in an American Church*. (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2024).

Sybil MacBeth, *Praying in Color: Drawing a New Path to God*, expanded edition (Paraclete Press, 2019).

Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross, *Your Brain on Art: How the Arts Transform Us* (Random House, 2023). (Chapter 5 only)

Aimee C. Moiso, "Standing in the Breach: Conflict Transformation and the Practice of Preaching." *Homiletic* 45, no. 1 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.15695/hmltc.v45i1.4921>

Betty Pries, *The Space Between Us: Conversations about Transforming Conflict* (Herald Press, 2021).

Commentaries and articles of your own choosing related to the chosen preaching text.

**EXPECTATIONS, ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATIVE CRITERIA**

Full details for assignments will be provided in the syllabus. The evaluation for this course will be narrative and offered only as approved/not approved. The focus of this class is process and participation rather than completed artifacts. The nature of active communication, conflict transformation, artistic ventures, and preaching can often resist a strict sense of closure.

- A Portfolio that will include:
  - Short informal exegetical notes as part of sermon preparation.
  - Bibliography of resources related to your sermon. One should be a book-length commentary on the the biblical book from which your pericope comes. One should represent a non-white, non-Western, or non-male perspective.
  - Journaling around provided prompts to help with definitions related to conflict, conflict transformation and in response to class lectures and activities.
  - Reflection on one's own "working gospel" and how a course like this may influence how we understand the good news in a sermon.
  - Creative exercises and activities.

(students will share portfolios in class on Thursday and can choose if they want to keep some sections of the portfolio private.)

- 10-12 minute sermon on a biblical text of your choice that reflects and integrates learning from the readings and seminar related to conflict and conflict transformation.

- Active participation during creative in-class activities. (active participation is a broad category that can include creation, asking questions or reflection.)

### **SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Joyce L. Hocker and William W. Wilmot, *Interpersonal Conflict*, 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> edition (McGraw Hill, 2018 or 2021).

Deborah van Deusen Hunsinger and Theresa Latini, *Transforming Church Conflict: Compassionate Leadership in Action* (WJK, 2013).

John Paul Lederach, *Little Book of Conflict Transformation*. (Good Books, 2003).

John Paul Lederach, *Reconcile: Conflict Transformation for Ordinary Christians* (Herald Press, 2014).

Thomas G. Long, *Witness of Preaching* 3<sup>rd</sup> edition (WJK, 2016.)

Marshall Rosenberg, *Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life* 3<sup>rd</sup> ed. (PuddleDancer Press, 2015.)

Paul Scott Wilson, *Four Pages of the Sermon*, revised edition (Abingdon, 2018).