**Iona School for Ministry**



**The Prophetic Voice**

**Homiletics 6**

**April 14, 2024**

**Rev. Jim Harrington**

**Class Description**

Prophetic preaching is not a new task in the life of the church, although often met historically and in present days by warnings against “politicizing the pulpit.” Our world of injustice, conflict, and division calls for prophetic preaching. The prophetic voice sometimes must also call the church to task. The prophetic voice addresses the theological and ethical question: How then shall we live?

This class is intended to help students think critically about what prophetic preaching is, formulate a view of what its role in the church is, prepare for the task of preaching prophetically, and link prophetic preaching to the larger prophetic ministry of the church.

The class will involve a discussion of the readings distributed beforehand, current theological and ethic issues in need of a prophetic voice, techniques of a prophetic sermon, and small group preparation of a prophetic sermon.

**Class Objectives**

In (or after taking) this class, students will:

* Articulate the meaning, purpose, and appropriate uses of prophetic preaching
* Explain the relationship between prophetic preaching and the prophetic ministry of the church
* Situate the role of prophetic preaching within the Order to which they are called
* Recognize pitfalls of what is often considered prophetic preaching
* Have some tools for preparing prophetic sermons

To demonstrate meeting these objectives, students will:

Participate fully in class and breakout groups

Do a four-minute class presentation, outlining a prophetic sermon they will give

**Suggested Resources**

**Handouts**

Koubek, Richard. “*How* *to* *Preach A* *Justice* *Sermon: What* *Works* *and* *Doesn’t* *Work* *for* *Clergy* *and* *Congregations* *on* *Long* *Island”* (Jan. 2016), https://www.prcli.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/JwJ-preaching-focus-group-report-FINAL.pdf.

Tisdale, Leonora Tubbs. “Speaking Truth in Love: Strategies or Prophetic Preaching.” *Reflections*, Yale University Divinity School (Dec. 22, 2006), https://reflections.yale.edu/article/future-prophetic-voice/speaking-truth-love-strategies-prophetic-preaching.

**For further reading**

Brueggemann, Walter. *The Practice of Prophetic Imagination: Preaching an*

*Emancipating Word*. Fortress Press, 2012.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. *The Prophetic Imagination*. 40th Anniversary Edition, Fortress Press, 2018.

Cressman, Lisa. *The Gospel People Don’t Want to Hear: Preaching Challenging*

*Messages.* Fortress Press, 2020.

Doyle, C. Andrew. *Citizen: Faithful Discipleship in a Partisan World*. Church Publishing,

2020.

Fisher-Stewart, Gayle, ed. *Preaching Black Lives (Matter)*. Church Publishing, 2020.

# Hood, Robert E. *Social Teachings in the Episcopal Church*. Morehouse Pub Co

# (January 1, 1990).

Kesselus, Kenneth. John E. Hines: Granite on Fire. ETSS, 1995.

Markham, Ian S., and Crystal J. Hardin, eds. *Prophetic Preaching: The Hope or the*

*Curse of the Church?* Church Publishing, 2020.

Moss III, Otis. *Blue Note Preaching in a Post-Soul World: Finding Hope in an Age of*

*Despair*. Westminster John Knox, 2015.

Schade, Leah D. *Preaching in the Purple Zone: Ministry in the Red-Blue Divide*.

Rowman & Littlefield, 2019.

Thurman, Howard. *Sermons on the Parables*. David B. Gowler and Kipton E Jensen

(eds). Orbis Books, 2001.