**Iona School for Ministry**

**Title of Class: Practical Preaching**

**Year, Track(s): Year One**

**Class Date: November 4, 2022**

**Instructor’s Name: The Rt. Rev. Jeff W. Fisher**

**Class Description**

For beginners, providing tangible exercises and pointers, so that students can preach sermons that use their own voice and are remembered by the congregation.

**Class Objectives**

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

* Receive practical preaching pointers, especially on the use of rhetorical devices, and about preaching for special events (baptisms, Christmas, etc.)
* Learn about how the sermon is a preaching event that is oral, not written. A making known (exegesis) of the Word, their own life, and the life of the congregation, so that the message is remembered.
* Identify what they already know from listening to sermons: what makes them effective or not, and what excites and terrifies them about preaching.
* Ponder their weekly sermon discipline, recognizing the time constraints of bi-vocational ministry.
* Create a sermon together, showing how “clouds” (Biblical text, liturgy, current events, congregational experience, personal stories, etc.) surround the central metaphor/image painted in the sermon.
* Preach a “one sentence sermon” with no notes, using their own voice.

**Class Schedule**

I. Brainstorming – define a “bad or good” sermon, excitement/fears about preaching

II. Teaching – the Preaching Event, to make known

III. Practical Preaching Pointers – short advice, with emphasis on rhetorical devices

IV. Group Exercise - creating a sermon together, using a lectionary text, with “clouds” around a central metaphor

V. Special Event Preaching – pointers for weddings, Easter, etc.

VI. Individual Exercise – preaching the hope that is within us, using your own voice.

VII. Weekly Sermon Discipline – writing techniques and resources

VIII. Question and Answers – time for discussion

**Suggested Resources**

Handouts – Kathy Dunn has the pdf of the Class Handout.

For further reading – none.