

Preaching as Pastoral Care

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Introduction:

The Multiple Aims of Preaching

1. didactic - to teach Christian truth.
2. apologetic - to communicate and defend Christian truth.
3. formation - to develop Christian character
4. persuasion - to change lives.
5. evangelistic - to bring people to salvation in Christ.
6. prophetic - to confront social ills.
7. pastoral - to care for persons.

A. Good Preaching **Provides** Pastoral Care

The Entire Liturgy should provide care

Sermons should provide care

Sermons aid the creation of caring communities

B. Good Preaching is **Shaped by** Pastoral Care

A Listening Ministry

A Ministry of Presence

Consultation with others in planning

Situational Analysis Form

As someone actively involved in the life of this congregation, you have received impressions and information that provide you with knowledge of the personal needs of its members. You may have received that knowledge in any of several ways—personal conversations, pastoral calling, family visitation, group interactions, and so on.

You will provide vital assistance in the planning of preaching by indicating the matters that you believe preaching must address during the coming year. Be sure that you make your selection below on the basis of what you believe the congregation needs and not just on your personal preferences.

A. Questions of faith (Please check the three most important ones):

- the assurance of salvation.
- discerning God's will for our lives.
- the need for personal conversion.
- matters of eschatology and the "last things."
- stewardship (of finances, time resources, creation).
- the life of worship.
- witnessing and sharing our faith.
- Christian education for children and youth.

B. Matters of doctrine (Please check the three most important ones):

- salvation by the grace of God alone.
- the person and work of Christ.
- the nature and task of the Christian church.
- the work and power of the Holy Spirit.
- sin and repentance.
- the creation and providence of God.
- the inspiration and authority of Scripture.
- the greatness and sovereignty of God.

C. Personal Growth (Please check the three most important ones):

- preparing for and maintaining Christian marriages.
- the responsibilities of Christian parenthood.
- growing through affliction and suffering.
- the dangers of an unforgiving spirit.
- overcoming the tendency to be complacent.
- overcoming fear and anxiety.
- discovering and developing spiritual gifts.
- establishing and maintaining better personal relationships.

D. Moral/Ethical Issues (Please check the three most important ones):

- issues about the sacredness of life.
- matters of abuse (physical, emotional, verbal, and sexual).
- materialism.
- divorce and remarriage.
- racism, prejudice, and injustice.
- poverty and world hunger.
- war and world peace.
- the relationships of church and state.

E. Temptations (Please check the three most important ones):

- greed, envy, and jealousy.
- lust and adultery.
- a critical spirit toward others.
- a spirit of self-centeredness.
- hedonism and the pleasure-filled life.
- Sabbath practices.
- dishonesty and lying.
- misplaced priorities.

F. What other concerns do you have about needs in the life of this congregation that you believe ought to be taken into consideration in planning for a year of preaching that will be appropriate and relevant?