

Student Preacher Application Guidelines

Wesley Theological Seminary

The Chapel and Special Events Committee welcomes students to lend their voices to the rich cadre of preachers for our weekly chapel services by applying to the Student Preacher Initiative. Beginning with the 2018-2019, we will invite two students per semester to preach for weekly chapel worship. Our hope is that this initiative will afford students an opportunity to enhance their facility in “engaging diverse cultural contexts sensitively, critically and constructively” and in developing sermons that reflect the biblical, theological, and cultural richness evident in the life and ongoing formation of the Wesley Community.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Guidelines & Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Who is eligible to submit an application?** All applicants must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Enrolled as a student at WTS during the semester of the preaching event
 - b. An overall GPA of 3.0 or better
 - c. Successful completion of Foundations of Preaching and at least one (1) practicum in preaching with a grade of B+ or better for each course (PW 125 and one practicum).
 - d. Successful completion of at least one course in Old Testament Studies and one course in New Testament Studies with a grade of B or better for each course (BI 101, 102, BI 171, 172).
2. **How do I apply?** You may apply by submitting the following:
 - a. A written application via the Student Preacher application portal at studentpreaching@wesleyseminary.edu
 - b. A one to two minute(s) video introducing yourself and why you desire to preach for chapel worship.
 - i. Please record and submit videos via *Panopto* at the Student Preacher Blackboard site. (Log into Blackboard and the site should be visible on your page)
 - c. 2 Letters of Recommendation: Recommendations should be submitted via the online portal at studentpreaching@wesleyseminary.edu
 - i. Recommendation 1: from a full or part-time WTS faculty member.

- ii. Recommendation 2: from someone with intimate knowledge of the your skills and abilities in preaching (senior pastor, pastoral mentor, District Superintendent, Presiding Elder, denominational leader, second faculty member, ordained ministry associate).
 - iii. A faculty nomination may serve as one letter of recommendation. *Please see #3.*
- d. A video or audio-recorded sermon from a live worship service with sermon manuscript (not from a class).
 - i. Please upload your video or audio-recorded sermon to Blackboard via *Panopto* at the Student Preacher Blackboard site. (Login your Blackboard account and the Student Preacher Blackboard site should be visible on your page).

3. Must I be nominated by a faculty member in order to apply? No

- a. There are two methods by which the Student Preacher Selection Committee may become aware of your interest in preaching for chapel worship.
 - i. You may indicate your interest by beginning the application process as outlined in #2 above. The Committee will review your application upon receipt of the completed application.
 - ii. A faculty, staff, student or administrator may nominate you by completing the Student Preacher Nomination/Recommendation Form at studentpreaching@wesleyseminary.edu. The Committee will notify you regarding the nomination and invite you to begin the application process.
 - 1. Nominations from Wesley faculty will serve as the faculty recommendation.

4. Who will comprise the Student Preacher Selection Committee (SPSC)? The 3 to 5 member SPSC will include faculty members from preaching and worship and biblical studies, the Chapel Elder or representative, and representatives from the Worship Planning Committee, Student Leadership Council, and Community Life.

5. Who approves the SPSC 's recommendation? The Chapel and Special Events Committee.

6. How will selected students be notified? The chairperson on the Chapel and Special Events Committee will email selected students and coordinate the preaching date(s) with the Chapel Planning Committee.

7. Will all applicants receive notice that final selections have been made? Yes. All applicants should expect to receive an email regarding the resolution of their application.

8. SUMMARY:

Complete the online application at studentpreaching@wesleyseminary.edu

- a. Secure recommenders and direct them to the online recommendation at studentpreaching@wesleyseminary.edu
- b. Record introductory video at the *Student Preacher* Blackboard site
- c. Upload sermon video to the *Student Preacher* Blackboard site.
- d. Your application is complete!

Thank you for your interest in the Student Preacher Initiative at
Wesley Theological Seminary