



Licensing School Sermon Assignment

Each United Methodist Licensing School Student is required to prepare a sermon for review and practice.

You may select any of the four lectionary texts for the **second Sunday of the 2024-2025 appointment year**. (We select this Sunday based on the assumption that your first Sunday preaching in a new church would presumably be something of an introduction of your call story and/or vision for ministry, as well as an exploration of a text. We want you to have a sermon ready to go for your second Sunday and we want to provide you feedback on a “regular” sermon that you would preach, rather than the special occasion of introducing yourself to a new church.)

The texts for the second Sunday in the 2024-2025 appointment year (July 14) will be:

- 2 Samuel 6:1-5, 12b-19
- Amos 7:7-15
- Ephesians 1:3-14
- Mark 6: 14-29

Though you may usually incorporate more than one primary scripture in your preaching, or you may prefer series-based preaching, please **select only one of these four scriptures to focus on** for this exercise, although you may shape your sermon to fit a series that you may have in mind for your new appointment.

Sermon contexts and preaching styles differ widely! However, for the purposes of this exercise, this sermon should be **no longer than 15 minutes and no shorter than 10 minutes** when you preach it. **Bring a copy of your sermon and be prepared to preach it** to a small group of your peers and an experienced mentor during Licensing School. (The mentor will have reviewed it in advance.)

While you may not necessarily preach from a manuscript, for the purpose of Licensing School, **you are required to write a sermon manuscript**—a full, word-for-word document of what you intend to preach.

Please include the following on a cover sheet to your sermon manuscript submission:

1. A brief paragraph of how you would prepare the worship space for this worship service to strengthen the message of the sermon.
2. In one sentence, state the Good News you are trying to convey to the congregation—the “focus” of the sermon.
3. A brief statement of one way the congregation can respond to your sermon’s main point as they go out into the world to serve—the “function” that the sermon will have in their lives.
4. A brief outline of the sermon’s main points and key illustrations.

Submit this manuscript and the above information to Lyn Harding (LynHarding@vaumc.org) by the end of the work day Friday, May 10, 2024.