

**Global Methodist Church Upper Midwest Conference
Certified Lay Ministry Courses**

**Advanced Preaching Course Syllabus
November 2026**

Course Description:

We will engage with the course texts and other recommended resources in order to:

- deepen our preaching skills,
- discuss various preaching topics and styles, and
- develop a lifelong commitment to studying God's Word

in order to remain relevant in the pulpit, the classroom, small groups and other places where we have the opportunity to interpret, teach and apply the scriptures.

Course Objectives:

1. Interact with the two texts, discuss the major concepts, ideas, principles and methods presented by the authors. *Please bring your three top take-aways (most helpful, challenging, etc.) from each book to share and discuss with the class.*
2. Be prepared to evaluate and discuss your current preaching practices with regard to the major concepts, ideas, principles and methods from our texts.
3. Evaluate and discuss the various sermon approaches: deductive, expository, inductive, narrative, topical, verse-by-verse, etc.
4. Explore topics to preach regularly/annually, e.g.: Advent/Christmas; Lent/Easter; Stewardship/Money; Doctrines; Wesleyan emphases; etc. Discuss lectionary preaching versus series preaching and the value of each.
5. Interact with John Wesley's sermon, *The Scripture Way of Salvation*, as an introduction into how Wesley's understands our salvation experience through scripture (the gospel message). Explore how to make Wesley's theology in this sermon relevant for listeners today.
6. Discuss the character, devotional and spiritual life of the preacher and its impact on his/her preaching witness. What "sermon" (gospel) is your life "preaching"?

Materials/Pre-Course Reading:

Preaching in the Spirit, by Dennis F. Kinlaw (Available at francisasburysociety.com)
ISBN 978-159317522-1

Biblical Preaching: The Development and Delivery of Expository Messages, Fourth Edition
(2025) by Haddon W. Robinson (Available on Amazon) ISBN-13: 978-1540967916

The Scripture Way of Salvation (1765), John Wesley, available in various collections of

Wesley's sermons or here online:

<https://wesley.nnu.edu/john-wesley/the-sermons-of-john-wesley-1872-edition/sermon-43-the-scripture-way-of-salvation>

What Makes a Good Sermon by David F. Watson, July 31, 2025 (accessed 5/4/2026) at <https://davidfwatson3.substack.com/p/what-makes-a-good-sermon>

Additional Course Requirements:

1. Please submit a video of yourself preaching two weeks prior to our class date. A Vimeo, YouTube or Facebook page link are acceptable formats. These can be sent to me at my email address above. If students are not able to provide a video, then a fully written sermon manuscript will be sufficient.
2. Additionally, please provide a video of yourself preaching after the class. Once again, if this is not possible whatsoever, then substitute a fully written sermon manuscript.

Teacher:

Michael (Mike) McInnis
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About the Teacher:

Rev. Michael McInnis is an ordained elder in the Global Methodist Church currently on Senior Status and living with his wife, Kathy Jo, in Le Mars, IA. They have been married 43 years and have four grown children and nine grandchildren—so far. Raised a “military brat,” Mike has lived in six states and one foreign country (Spain), changing schools eight times in grades K-12. His oldest daughter and her husband are missionaries in Japan; he has traveled there five times since 2009, where he has had the opportunity to preach to people from Japan, China and around the world.

Mike earned a B.F.A. in Commercial Art/Marketing from Kearney State College (*now the University of Nebraska at Kearney*), 1981; and an M.Div. from Asbury Theological Seminary, 1989.

Mike has served churches in the Free Methodist Church, United Methodist Church, Evangelical Covenant Church and Global Methodist Church, in both rural and city settings (ranging in population from 800 to 500,000). During his ministry he has been involved in three church plants, overseen two church building programs, and served as an interim pastor to help a church transition through staff conflict. Although on “Senior Status,” he is currently serving as the pastor part-time at LifeConnection GMC in Le Mars, IA, while they search for their next full-time pastor. All of these churches experienced worship, membership and financial growth during his pastoral service.