

All preachers benefit from having some time away from the pressures of sermon preparation and delivery.

# *The Preachers' Oasis*

workshop is designed to give pastors just such a break while at the same time providing an opportunity to reflect on the preaching task with an eye toward getting better at what we are already good at. We want to deepen the gifts God has given to us, refining the skills by which we employ those gifts for proclamation and ministry.

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CALVIN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

3233 Burton St. SE, Grand Rapids, MI 49546

# *The Preachers' Oasis*

*Developing Gifts, Refining Skills*

A one-week workshop led by  
Randall Bytwerk,  
Scott Hoezee,  
and Mary Hulst

*July 10-14, 2006*

On the campus of Calvin College and Seminary  
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sponsored by  
the Center for Excellence in Preaching,  
the Calvin Workshops in Communication,  
and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship



WORKSHOPS  
*in* COMMUNICATION

CALVIN INSTITUTE OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP  
*for the study and renewal of worship*

# The Preachers' Oasis

This workshop will be limited to eighteen participants, each of whom must be a preaching pastor in a congregation. The aim of the week will be to ponder what is working, and what needs work, in the preaching life of each participating pastor. In addition to discussions with the entire group, each workshop participant will receive individual attention so that specific questions can be raised and particular issues dealt with.

The five morning sessions will be co-led by Randall Bytwerk of the Calvin College Communication Arts and Sciences department, Scott Hoezee, Director of the Center for Excellence in Preaching at Calvin Theological Seminary, and Mary Hulst, a Ph.D. candidate in communications at the University of Illinois.



Included in the plan for the week will be topics such as:

- A Look at "The Odd Sins of Preachers"
- A Conversation on the topic "Who You Are Is How You Preach"
- How to Nurture Helpful Sermon Feedback from the Congregation
- The Role Played by Peer Groups in the Pursuit of Excellence in Preaching
- A Consideration of Rhetorical Skills for Connecting with the Congregation

To help make this workshop as practical as possible, each participant will be asked to submit a videotape or DVD of two sermons: the April 16, 2006, Easter sermon and the next sermon preached after Easter.

Additionally, the church council or session of each participant will be asked to fill out a survey that will help participants to focus their energies on areas in which they would like to improve. The sermon tapes and the church survey will help the workshop leaders to tailor individualized suggestions for each pastor who attends.

Finally, participants will be encouraged to take part in small groups (organized geographically) in the months following the July 2006 workshop so as to continue to reflect on what was learned and to discuss how well they are integrating those insights into the actual practice of ministry. The group will then reunite in Grand Rapids around the time of the 2007 Symposium on Worship (January 25-27) for a final wrap-up and reflection session.

Thanks to generous underwriting by the Center for Excellence in Preaching, the Calvin Workshops in Communication, and the Calvin Institute of Christian Worship, the cost for coming to this oasis event will be very modest. Participants will be asked to pay \$150 for the week and will be given a stipend to put toward transportation costs. Lodging will be provided along with breakfast and lunch each day, Monday-Friday. Some fun evening activities, including dinner, are being planned for a couple of the evenings as well.

*To apply:*

- Submit a *Curriculum Vitae* listing your education, work history, current position, etc.
- Submit a short essay of approximately 500 words indicating what interests you about this workshop, what areas of your own preaching you wish to talk about, and why you think a workshop like this will benefit you.
- Submit contact information (address, phone, fax, email) so that we can get back in touch with you.

Please mail all application materials to  
Rev. Scott Hoezee  
Calvin Theological Seminary  
3233 Burton Street SE  
Grand Rapids MI 49546-4387

Alternatively, materials may be emailed as an attachment to [seh6@calvinseminary.edu](mailto:seh6@calvinseminary.edu)

All applications must be submitted not later than March 1, 2006.

Applicants will be notified of their status by April 1.