

**“Preaching the Gospel of Holistic Health”**  
**Pacific School of Religion**  
**Summer Session—July 12-16, 2010**  
**Class Sessions, Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM-1:00 PM**

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I look forward to our week together at Pacific School of Religion-July 12-16, 2010 for our class on “Preaching the Gospel of Holistic Health.” This mini-course is designed as a preaching practicum with a thematic focus on biblical/theological perspectives on holistic health and healing.

I. As a Result of Our Working Together, the Participants Will Achieve the Following...

OBJECTIVES

- A. Have a clear and broadened understanding of holistic health and the inter-relatedness of body, mind, spirit and environment in determining the quality of a person’s health.
- B. Develop a theological rationale for giving health and healing a prominent place in our ministries.
- C. Identify biblical texts and principles which should be a part of our teaching and preaching of the gospel of holistic health.
- D. Develop liturgies, rituals and program activities to strengthen ministries of healing.
- E. Plan ways to be in partnership with holistic health practitioners of other than religious fields of service.
- F. Review fundamental principles of homiletics.
- G. Develop a concept of preaching which will increase consciousness of a holistic understanding of health and wellness.
- H. Refine the skills of collegial critique of sermons.
- I. Risk practicing new freedom in sermon development and delivery.
- J. Prepare a plan for a series of sermons promoting a holistic understanding of life, health and wholeness.

II. Preparation for the Course

- A. Participants are required to read the two texts:
  - 1. Eliopoulos, Charlotte  
Invitation to Holistic Health: A Guide to Living a Balanced Life  
Jones and Bartlett Publishers, Sudbury, MA, Second Edition, 2010
  - 2. Epperly, Bruce  
God’s Touch  
Westminster John Knox Press, Atlanta, GA, 2001
  - 3. And other texts and articles in the area of holistic health and Ministry. Members of the class are encouraged to share helpful resources with each other.
- B. Students are expected to begin preparing a sermon, portions of which may be presented for critique during class time. A limited number of participants may be given the opportunity to preach a full sermon on our theme as time permits.

III. Class Activities Will Include:

- A. Devotionals (with brief homilies)
- B. Lectures
- C. Discussions—Small Groups and Plenary
- D. Brief Reports: brief reviews from chapters of the text books
- E. Sermon delivery and class critique
- F. Rituals of healing

IV. Written Assignments Include

- A. A brief statement (one page) on
  - 1. “My Understanding of the Gospel of Holistic Health”
  - 2. Texts and titles for a sermon series on Spirituality and Holistic Health
- B. A final paper (three pages) on
  - 1. “A Plan for My Holistic Health” and my blueprint for a healthier Ministry of Preaching

V. Elements Informing the Evaluation of Participants

- A. Class attendance
- B. Class participation in discussions and presentations
- C. Completion of reading assignments
- D. Quality of the written assignments
- E. The quality of collegial interaction in the class