

The Center for Pastoral Excellence

**THE ACADEMY OF
PREACHING AND
CELEBRATION**

Frank A. Thomas



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The Center for Pastoral Excellence
at Christian Theological Seminary hosts five initiatives that address the long arc of ministry – from vocational discernment to seminary training to sustaining outstanding ministers in their ongoing work.

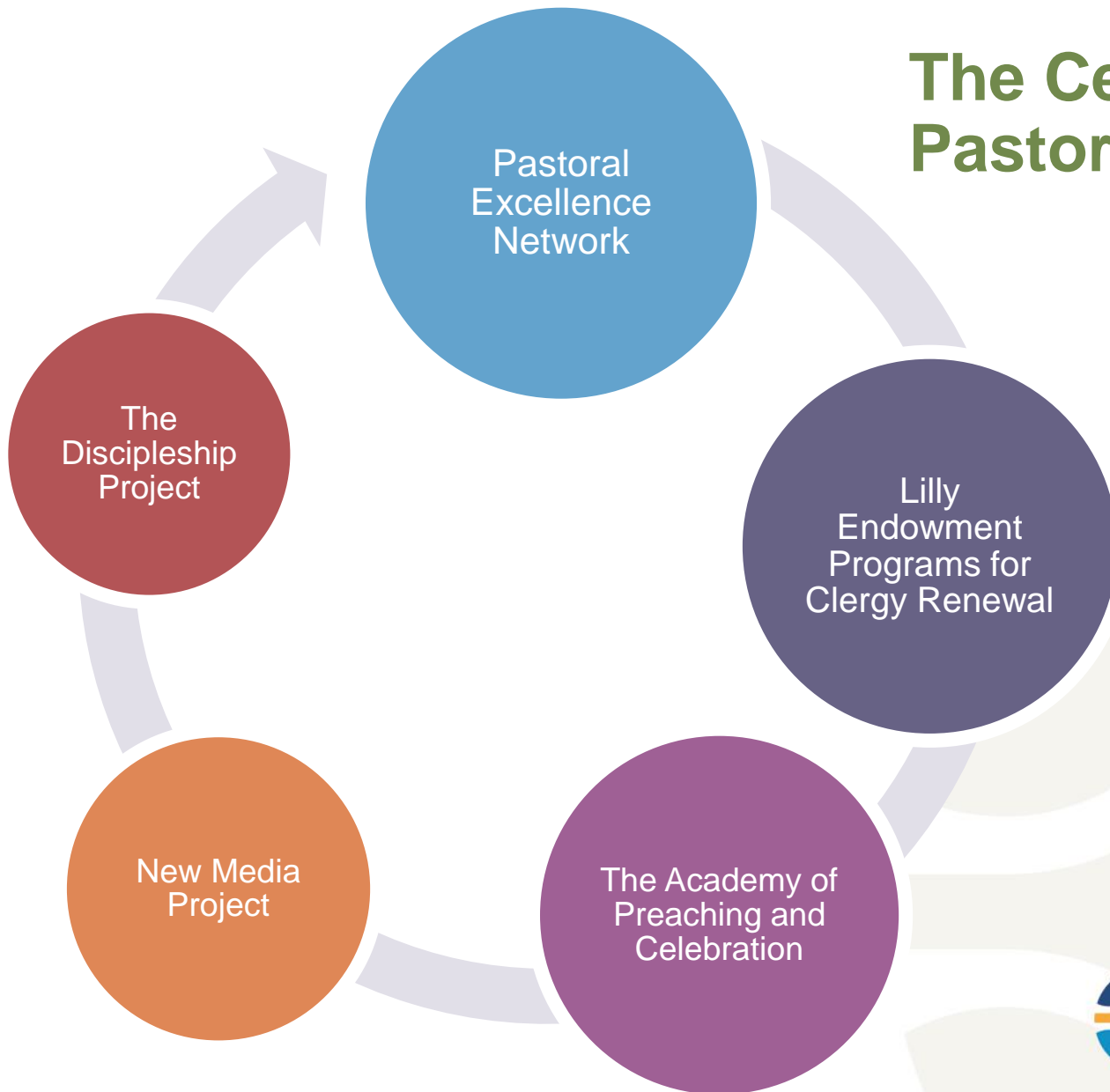
“A comprehensive and lifelong approach to pastoral education.”

Matthew Myer Boulton



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THE ACADEMY OF PREACHING AND CELEBRATION

Why

Why does a thing exist? And why should anyone care?

How

The unique core values, beliefs, and processes that bring our Why to life.

What

The programs and services we deliver to people.



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Adapted from Simon Sinek's *Start With Why*

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WHY WOULD CTS CREATE

The Academy of Preaching and Celebration?

Why

- ⊙ **African American preaching is central to a national preaching renaissance:**
 - Preaching rarely consulted in public discourse outside the church;
 - Preaching inside the church overly influenced by mores and styles of popular television preachers;



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WHY WOULD CTS CREATE

The Academy of Preaching and Celebration?

Why

- ◎ African American preaching is central to a national preaching renaissance:
 - Develop premier scholarship program in African American preaching;
 - Create the definitive repository of African American preaching;



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WHY WOULD CTS CREATE

The Academy of Preaching and Celebration?

Why

- ◎ **African American preaching is central to a national preaching renaissance:**
 - Provide opportunities for professional development and continuing education;
 - Position CTS as one of the leading institutions for the study of Christian preaching and worship.



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WHY SHOULD THIS PROGRAM EXIST?

And why should anyone care?

Why

The Academy of Preaching and Celebration exists to generate excellence in preaching and worship by exploring the genius of the African American tradition to transform the church and world through deepened faith and biblical practice.



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OUR UNIQUE CORE VALUES:

How

- ⦿ **Passionate pursuit of creative and relevant sermonic forms that offer hope;**
- ⦿ **Organic concern that preaching happens in the context of worship;**
- ⦿ **Purposeful use of technology and media to deliver preaching across multiple platforms;**



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OUR UNIQUE CORE VALUES:

How

- ⦿ **Inclusive African American preaching tradition in dialogue with Euro-American and other traditions, open to all;**
- ⦿ **Passionate connection to church and academy (scholar-practitioners);**
- ⦿ **Inclusive of preaching traditions of Africa and the African Diaspora across the globe;**



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OUR UNIQUE CORE VALUES:

How

- ⦿ **Honor and respect the multiplicity of African American preaching traditions within and external to the Christian faith;**
- ⦿ **Application of rhetorical/theological/homiletical insight to generate highest level of performance in preaching.**



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THREE PILLARS OF THE PROJECT

FIRST PILLAR

Applied Performance

Dr. Frank A. Thomas – apply academic rhetorical/preaching insight to generate highest level of performance in preaching.

SECOND PILLAR

Prophetic Preaching

Dr. Alan Boesak, Desmond Tutu chair – develop the first track in prophetic preaching and links to prophetic preaching traditions of Africa, the African Diaspora, and global community.

THIRD PILLAR

Family Ministry

Dr. Joyce Thomas – train and develop the awareness and practice of balance between congregational life and family life.



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APPLIED PERFORMANCE

What

- ⦿ Offer a PhD program in African American preaching and sacred rhetoric;
- ⦿ Create an archive and repository of the very best of African American preaching and sacred rhetoric;
- ⦿ Research and publish projects – digital homiletics series With WJK as an example of research and publishing;



APPLIED PERFORMANCE

What

- ⦿ **Professional development workshops on preaching and worship for working pastors and lay leaders;**
- ⦿ **Special programs for CTS students – course modules on specific preaching and worship skills bringing together students and seasoned practitioners;**
- ⦿ **Annual preaching/worship festivals for the general public when choirs and preachers can gather to celebrate.**



PROPHETIC PREACHING

What

- ⦿ **Host one major academic conference each year, drawing together scholars from both academy and church;**
- ⦿ **Establish and lead the first ever prophetic preaching track;**
- ⦿ **Connect to the global preaching community, particularly in the African Diaspora and South Africa.**



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FAMILY MINISTRY

What

- ⦿ Offer individual and group coaching services to spouses and clergy around issues of balance in ministry;
- ⦿ Develop classes, workshops, etc. to highlight clergy and spousal strategies for balance;
- ⦿ Develop community-based clergy spouse support groups.



THE ACADEMY OF PREACHING AND CELEBRATION

Who

Who is the target audience for The Academy of Preaching and Celebration?

When

What is the programming timeline for first year of the Project?

Result

What does success look like? How will we evaluate success?



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TARGET AUDIENCE

Who

- ⦿ **Community Clergy – seminary and non-seminary trained, interested in continuing education and skill development;**
- ⦿ **Seminary Students – CTS and others who have interest in African American preaching at Master’s and Doctoral levels;**



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TARGET AUDIENCE

Who

- ⦿ **Clergy Family – clergy spouse and family members interested in preserving balance between family life and ministry;**
- ⦿ **National/Global Justice Partners – national and global partners interested in the link between prophetic preaching and activism.**



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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

Initial Planning and Networking

When

- ⦿ While the first year of The Academy of Preaching and Celebration is dedicated to research and to further definition of our initial concept proposal, in this initial start-up period we have been able to accomplish the following:



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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

Initial Planning and Networking

When

- ⦿ Worked with PhD Task Force of the CTS faculty in the development of a report and concept proposal for a PhD program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric. Report was unanimously approved by the faculty and referred to the Academic Council for further study and consideration;



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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

Initial Planning and Networking

When

- ⦿ Planned soft launch of The Academy of Preaching and Celebration to CTS community (Trustees, Faculty, and Alumni) and African American pastors and community, with initial presentation and materials.



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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

for the First Year of the Project

When

- ⦿ Family Ministry Track will offer a winter course on balance in ministry and begin a support group for Pastor's spouses;
- ⦿ Prophetic Preaching Track will offer winter course on prophetic preaching and develop prophetic preaching track;



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PROGRAMMING TIMELINE

for the First Year of the Project

When

⦿ The Project will also plan to offer in 2014:

- Preaching Method Conference, Spring 2014;
- Two Consultations relative to the development of a PhD program in African American Preaching and Sacred Rhetoric.



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WHAT WOULD SUCCESS LOOK LIKE IN THIS FIRST PHASE?

Result

- ⦿ **Final concept proposal and hard launch
Sept. 2014;**
- ⦿ **Input, buy-in, and support of CTS faculty,
community, and African American pastors.**



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WHAT RESULTS WOULD SUCCESS PRODUCE IN THE CHURCH?

Result

⊙ **Congregational Well-being**

- Preaching Renaissance
- Balanced Clergy
- Deepened faith and Biblical practice



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SYNOPSIS

Project Program

- ⊙ Applied Performance
- ⊙ Prophetic Preaching
- ⊙ Family Ministry

Target Audience

- ⊙ Community Clergy
- ⊙ Seminary Students
- ⊙ Clergy Family
- ⊙ National/Global Justice Partners

Congregational Well-being

- ⊙ Preaching Renaissance
- ⊙ Balanced Clergy
- ⊙ Deepened faith and Biblical practice



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