Cultivating the Gift of Preaching

an initiative of The Synod of the Covenant

Funded by a $1.25m Lilly Grant, the aim of the Cultivating the Gift of Preaching Initiative is to train 140 preachers across the Synod over the next five years. Of the 650 Churches in the Synod of the Covenant, nearly 200 are currently without an installed Teaching Elder or Commissioned Ruling Elder. Yet there are also many elders and other church leaders throughout the synod who are called and gifted to preach. Our aim is to help emerging preachers hone these gifts and live into their calling.

- Mentors and workshop leaders will come from the experienced pastors and other leaders from across the Synod as well as our Initiative partners, Johnson C. Smith Seminary and Alma College.
- The Initiative will formally begin on June 6-10, with a Conference at Alma College. This conference will occur each June.
- Participants will be assigned to a cohort of ~7 participants and a mentor, with whom they will journey for the duration of the 18-month program.
- Cohorts will gather online monthly and in-person twice (in addition to the Alma Conferences).
- Topics of instruction include: an overview of the Bible, biblical interpretation, Reformed theology, sermon writing, sermon delivery, and the use of new media (new technologies).

An 18-month training program for emerging preachers

Cohort Style Learning

Led by experienced preachers and teachers

Online and In-Person

Applications accepted through April 5, 2024. Reference letters due by April 12.

The total cost / participant is $11,000. Participants to contribute only $250 and their church or presbytery only $1000. (Scholarships and installment plans available.)

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