

Application for Peer Preaching  
Presbytery of Utah/Plains and Peaks Presbytery  
Spring 2020/Fall 2020

Below is the application information needed to apply to participate in the grant funded peer preaching events in Utah/Plains and Peaks Presbyteries. This continuing education opportunity is funded from the restricted funds distributed by the Presbyterian Church (USA.)

The grant is specific to training preachers in the Western Region of the United States and each applicant has been awarded approximately \$1000 in a continuing education grant. Participants are responsible for \$100 of the total cost.

The program can only admit five preachers from each Presbytery. Applicants will be chosen by Encounter Peer Preaching in consultation with the David G. Buttrick Homiletic Peer Coaching Staff at Vanderbilt Divinity School.

Prospective dates for Peer Preaching weeks:

Utah: Monday, March 9 – Friday, March 13 (Community of Grace)

Plains and Peaks: Monday, October 19 – Friday, October 23 (Westminster PC)

Reverend Monica Hall is the certified peer coach for the peer preaching week. She has over 3200 clinical hours of peer work in both chaplaincy and peer preaching. The grant to expand training in preaching in the Western United States is one of the first granted. Those chosen for this program are paving a road to strengthening proclamation in the West and how it might form the mission of the church in this specific region.

Peer Preaching is a fairly new model of continuing education in homiletics. It was conceived by the late Dale P. Andrews and the Rev. Dr. John McClure at Vanderbilt Divinity School. It uses the model of clinical pastoral education in having a group listen to a presenter of a self narrative or sermon. The group is tasked for listening to the presentation in order to ask the presenter questions about the presentation. It is a time of exploration and revelation – not advice, or fixing.

So often, homiletic training offers a professional giving of techniques, forms, examples, stories for direction and the preacher is left with no exploration. It is handed off to craft in solidarity. The preacher is left only applying techniques in isolation instead of investigating formation through peers and what it means to think of sermon formation going into the world through the church with others called by God to do the same thing in a different place.

No doubt, the success of this program rests on each peer and the ability to listen to what the preacher wants to explore – then forming questions that open doors to rooms possibly not ever explored before. It is a vulnerable and challenging program; but, a program that draws on the strength of careful trust and sharing through peers.

In short, the program explores this formation: **Whatever is forming the preacher, forms the sermon. Whatever forms the sermon, forms the listeners/congregation. Whatever forms the congregation forms the sharing of good news into the world.**

Applicants need only to fill out questions below in paragraph form and send it back to:

[peerpreaching@gmail.com](mailto:peerpreaching@gmail.com)

Applicants can also visit [www.peerpreaching.com](http://www.peerpreaching.com) to see endorsements, program orientation, etc.

The grant covers these things:

- 5 days of intense continuing education (plenary, groups, reading material, etc.)
- Books, articles, journals
- Housing/Travel Costs
- Breakfast daily
- Group dinner on Thursday night
- Keepsake to mark encounter

Applicants are responsible for bringing: (sent to coach in advance)

- One brief three paragraph preaching narrative (call story, preaching experience, etc.)
- One videoed sermon to be presented to group

### **Questions for application and to be returned to [peerpreaching@gmail.com](mailto:peerpreaching@gmail.com)**

1) Contact Information:

- Name
- Address
- Email
- Phone

2) Vocational Experience:

- Current Call
- Years of Service
- Certifications

3) Interest in Homiletics:

- How often do you preach?
- Describe sermon formation?
- Who/what are major influences in preaching?
- Describe experiences in listening: do you give answers/fix or ask questions

4) Preparation for Continuing Education:

- Rate willingness to prepare for this week (preparation time about 5 hours of reading/process)
- Describe previous kinds of peer group work experiences
- Describe any kind of formation encounters (spiritual, contemplative, etc.)