Dr. Scott M. Gibson, Coordinating Professor  
AC 344  
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary  
Hamilton Campus  
Hours by Appointment  
(978) 646-4152  e-mail: sgibson@gcts.edu  
Monday 6:00-9:00 p.m.: 8 September, 6 October, 3 November, 1 December,  
26 January, 9 February, 9 March, 13 April at Dr. & Mrs. Gibson’s.

I. Course Description

The Preacher and the Message is the unique mentoring component of the Master of Theology in Preaching program. Students will meet with the preaching faculty and occasional guests to discuss what it means for the preacher to interact with his or her congregation, people, spouse, and ministry priorities. The class will meet in various professors’ homes for a meal and a presentation and discussion.

PR 926A and PR 926B together constitute one course. Students who register for PR 926A must take PR 926B in the spring in order to receive any credit for the course. This course is limited to Th.M. students only.

II. Course Relation to the Curriculum

The Preacher and the Message is one of the two required courses of the Master of Theology in Preaching degree. The course serves as the mentoring component for all Master of Theology in Preaching students.

III. Course Objective

As a result of this course students should: (1) Have a basic concept of what it means to be a preacher. (2) Understand the skills needed to lead from the pulpit. (3) Understand how a preacher relates to listeners. (4) Learn how to develop priorities as a preacher. (5) Understand the dynamic effect of culture on the preacher and preaching. (6) Develop a cohort mentoring experience for Master of Theology in Preaching students.

IV. Course Textbooks

Required:

Scott M. Gibson, ed., *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004).


V. Course Requirements and Grading

1. Attendance at all sessions.

2. Write a one to two (1-2) page response paper after each session, integrating the reading and session presentation and discussion. *Due the Friday following each session.* Consider the following questions: 1.) What was discussed? 2.) What did you learn? 3.) What issues or ideas challenged you thinking about preaching? 4.) What are the biblical/theological issues that the discussion raised? 5.) What might you do to integrate what was discussed? 6.) What other concerns, thoughts, ideas do you want to write about?

3. Read Gibson, *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and a report on what you learned from reading this book. Comment on at least four issues discussed in *Preaching to a Shifting Culture: 12 Perspectives on Communicating that Connects* and write how you might apply them to your preaching and understanding of preaching. Limit your report to three (3) pages. *Due 6 October 2008.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 6 October 2008.

4. Read McCullough, *Say Please, Say Thank You* and a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Say Please, Say Thank You* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) pages. *Due 3 November 2008.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 3 November 2008.

5. Read Gibson, *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* and a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *Should We Use Someone Else’s Sermon?* and write how you might apply them to your life as a preacher. Limit your report to three (3) pages. *Due 1 December 2008.* We will discuss the book and its contents on 1 December 2008.

6. Read Stott, *The Preacher’s Portrait.* Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from
other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *The Preacher’s Portrait* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) pages. Due 9 February 2009. We will discuss the book and its contents on 9 February 2009.

7. Read Hansen, *Loving the Church You Lead*. Write a report on what you have learned from reading this book. Based on what you have read in this book and from other preaching courses, comment on at least four of the issues discussed in *The Power of Loving Your Church* and write how you might apply them to your own preaching. Limit your report to three (3) pages. Due 13 April 2009. We will discuss the book and its contents on 13 April 2009.


9. Other readings may be assigned.

VI. Course Administration

   A. Attendance Policy
      Attendance is required for the class. Please make every effort to be on time for class.

   B. Due Dates and Late Penalties
      Late work will not be accepted.

   C. Assistance.
      Please come to see me with your questions. I have a sign-up sheet located outside my office.

VII. Course Outline

8 September        What Does it Mean to Be a Preacher?
6 October          Our Shifting Culture
3 November         The Preacher and People
1 December         Preaching and Plagiarism
26 January         Trends in Preaching
9 February         Perspectives on Preaching
9 March            The Preacher’s Life
13 April           The Preacher and Priorities in Ministry

(Topics are subject to change.)
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary — Hamilton
PR 926A/B: The Preacher and the Message
Syllabus: Fall 2008 & Spring 2009
Dr. Scott M. Gibson

How many class sessions did you attend? ________________ (check if) all

Session reports: ________________ 8 Sept. 2008

**Due the Friday following each session.**

______________ 6 Oct. 2008
______________ 3 Nov. 2008
______________ 1 Dec. 2008
______________ 26 Jan. 2009
______________ 9 Feb. 2009
______________ 9 Mar. 2009
______________ 13 Apr. 2009

Report on Gibson (Shifting Culture): ________________

Report on McCullough: ________________

Report on Gibson (Should We Use): ________________

Report on Stott: ________________

Report on Hansen: ________________

I read *Making a Difference in Preaching* ________________ (yes/no)

What grade would you give yourself for class participation?

______________

(Late work will not be accepted.)

**Course Grade** ________________